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## PAYMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEBT.

THE advantage of having men like Mr. Mill in Parliament has been more than once exemplified since the commencement of the Session; but perhaps never so emphatically as on Tuesday night, when the member for Westminster delivered his magnificent essay on the wisdom of paying off a portion, at least, of the National Debt. The "fructifying shower" fallacy has been long since exploded. Men understand now that it is neither good for a nation nor for an individual to be in debt. To be sure, the nation does not feel the inconveniences of indebtedness so directly as does the individual; but they are none the less real on that account.

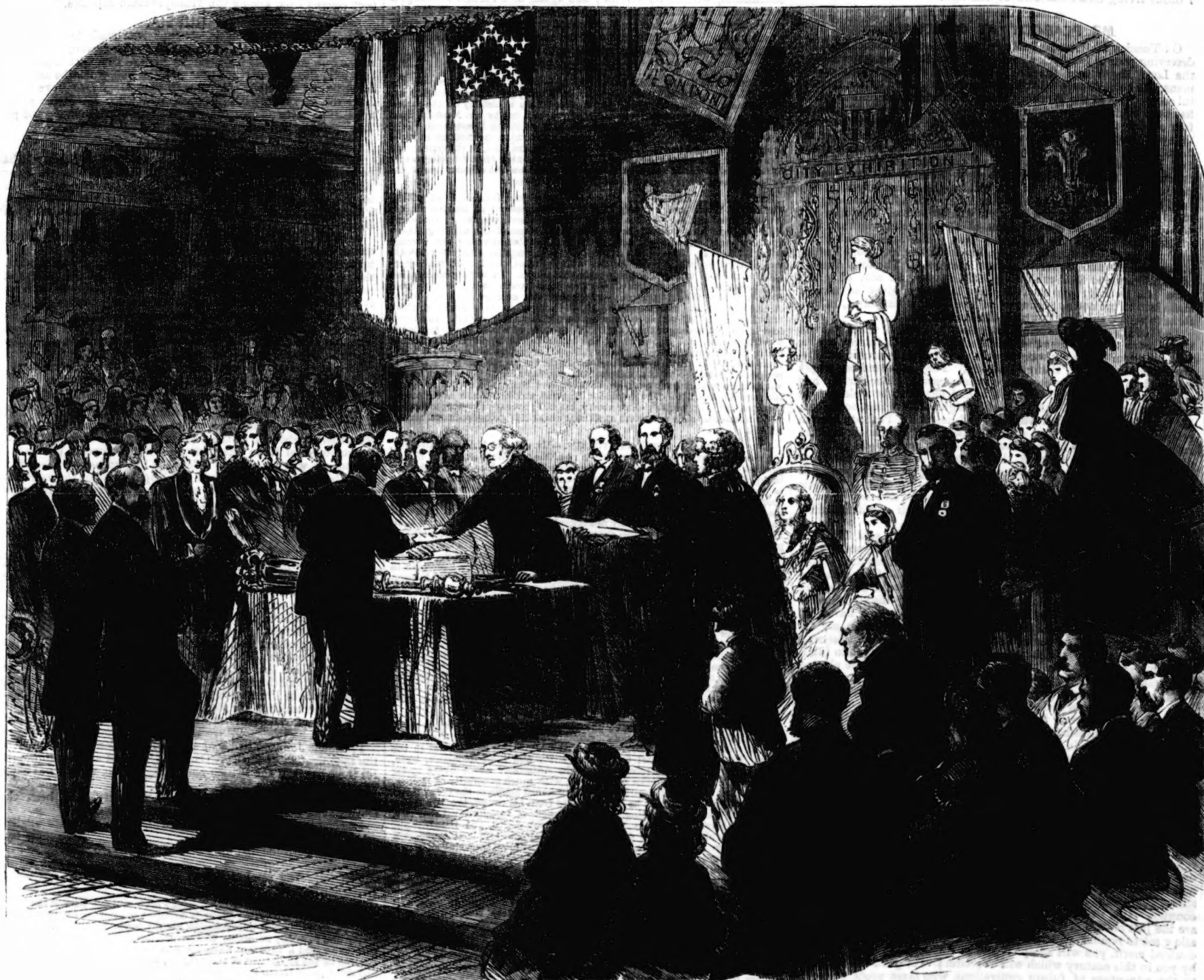
To say that Great Britain owes some seven hundred and fifty millions sterling conveys but a vague idea to the minds of most persons; it is difficult to realise the full significance of so immense a sum, and people are apt to turn away from the subject with a sort of feeling of hopelessness as to the probability of ever getting quit of so enormous a burden. But, when we reduce the matter to a question of the annual charge of the debt, we get a more tangible and graspable point, if we may be allowed to use the phrase. The statement

that the industry of the country is mortgaged and its energies shackled to the extent of upwards of £25,000,000 annually, or nearly one pound per head of the whole population, is one which all can understand; and Mr. Mill has done excellent service in calling attention to the fact, which, somehow, has received little attention of late years. A new school of thinkers, with Mr. Mill at its head, has now arisen in Parliament; and it is to be hoped that these gentlemen will continue to urge their views on this great question till measures are adopted for relieving the country of the terrible incubus of debt under which it now labours.

It may not, perhaps, be necessary to adopt all Mr. Mill's fears as to the exhaustion of our stock of coal. Science may discover substitutes for that material, or find out means of economising it; and the greatness and prosperity of England be still maintained. Science, we say, may do these things. She has done very wonderful things for us in the past, and we should be sorry to circumscribe her powers. But, judging from present probabilities, and basing our calculations on the rate of consumption now going on, some three generations will see all the coal in these islands, within 4000 ft.

of the surface, worked out. And as the cost of raising coal 4000 ft.—always supposing that we shall be confined to existing means of working—would be much too expensive to enable us to compete with other countries whose stock remains comparatively untouched and is easily got at, the inference is inevitable that, in perhaps a little more than one hundred years, the great element of English prosperity—the grand instrument of our industry—will be used and gone; and that we shall then be compelled to abandon our manufactures, to lay up our steam-ships in idleness, to blow out the fires of our ironworks, to let the grass grow on our railways, to allow our factories to stand still, and devote ourselves—or what remains of us—to agricultural and pastoral pursuits. Such is the picture which Mr. Mill and others draw of the future of England; and though all this, nor even a great part of it, may not be realised, still the prospect is sufficient to warn us against the folly of going on consuming our estate, and leaving only indebtedness, difficulty, and curtailed resources to those who are to come after us.

The claims of posterity are not merely ideal. Mr. Mill



MR. PEABODY DISTRIBUTING THE PRIZES TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPETITORS AT THE CITY INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, IN GUILDHALL.



put them in beautiful as well as forcible language; and if we of the present generation have the honesty and courage to do by posterity as our ancestors have done by us, we shall not seek to ignore those claims, and go on practising a dull and stupid selfishness, but will manfully brace ourselves up to do our duty, and devote a portion of our savings to clearing off the load that weighs upon the nation's shoulders so heavily now, and will weigh upon them still more heavily hereafter should the resources of future generations be diminished on anything like the scale which is prognosticated. In short, the fact cannot be too much insisted on that we labour under an enormous and burdensome debt, of which it is in the highest degree desirable, both for our own sake and for the sake of our descendants, that we should get rid.

Besides, the future will have its contingencies as well as the past has had its. Wars as extensive, and much more costly in money, may, and probably will, occur. Posterity may have to defend what it deems causes worthy of defence, as the past and present generations have done; and we are not justified in passing on the burden of our father's wars and our own undiminished, to overweight the powers of other ages, which will probably have enough to do to meet their own current obligations.

Comparatively little has been done, and certainly no persistent effort has been made, for some time past, in this direction. Since the failure of Pitt's Sinking-Fund scheme, our statesmen and the public have been content to let the National Debt go on much as chance directs. We have made occasional nibbling efforts to reduce it at one time, but have added greatly to it at others. The wisdom of the course we have followed of late years in applying the surplus revenue at our disposal to reductions of taxation instead of to reductions of the debt, may have been a wise course, in the circumstances. We are disposed to think it was the best course to pursue. We have removed, by that means, the obstacles which previously existed to the free exercise of our industry and energies, and to the accumulation of wealth; but now that those obstacles are removed, and that we are as a people highly prosperous in consequence, it is time we began to remember that we have a debt which ought to be paid, and that we are under obligations to our children and our children's children which we are bound to fulfil. In fine, it is time we seriously set about paying our debts, instead of wasting our substance by indulgence in the luxury and riotous living characteristic of the age.

#### MR. PEABODY AT QUILDHALL.

ON Tuesday Mr. George Peabody, the eminent benefactor of the deserving poor of London, attended at Guildhall, accompanied by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, at the request of the managing committee, to distribute the prizes gained by the successful competitors at the Working Classes Industrial Exhibition, which has been held there for some weeks. The ceremony took place at four o'clock, in the presence of a large company, among whom were many of the principal citizens, and the hall was illuminated for the occasion and tastefully decorated with banners. On arriving at the hall Mr. Peabody was hailed with enthusiastic cheers, and, having taken a seat assigned to him on the right of the Lord Mayor, on the platform at the east end of the building, the honorary secretary read a report, which stated that the aggregate admissions on payment during the thirty-five days the exhibition had been open was 41,576. Upwards of 2500 children of the different ward and day schools had visited the exhibition free. The number of prizes awarded by adjudicators chosen by the exhibitors was 193, of which 99 were medals and 94 were honorary mentions. The total number of exhibitors was 827, exhibiting 1521 articles, 32 only of which were ineligible for prizes. No prizes had been given or awards made but to the actual producers of the articles exhibited, in conformity with a rule laid down by the committee.

The Lord Mayor, addressing the meeting, said, if there was one thing more than another that could add lustre and interest to the proceedings of the day it was the presence of their honoured and distinguished friend, Mr. George Peabody. They were, indeed, deeply indebted to him for his presence on the occasion. Their friend had refused all invitations of late, but he had felt it to be a pleasure to witness that beautiful and interesting sight within that noble hall. He might repeat a remark which he had heard Mr. Peabody utter in reference to something else within the last half hour. He said the ruling passion of his life had been that every man should go where duty called him, and he took that to mean that he felt that, after the universal gratitude expressed by the people of this country to him, it was his duty, before he left this ancient city, to take his farewell of those whom he had now the honour to address. He had great pleasure in presenting to their notice their excellent friend, Mr. Peabody.

Mr. Peabody, who was greeted with acclamations, said, My Lord Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I beg to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the kind expressions which the Lord Mayor has just used towards me. I assure you there is no man who feels such language with more sensibility or gratitude than I do, and I can assure you I am extremely thankful and complimented by the kind manner in which you have received the flattering remarks which have just emanated from my friend the Lord Mayor. Contrary to my expectation, I am able, on the eve of my departure from these shores, to discharge a duty which your kindness has called me to fulfil. Though a stranger to you, and of another country, you were pleased to intimate to me that my presence among you this day would give you gratification; and on my part I am bound to say that, while I have been constrained to decline many invitations recently addressed to me, I have reserved to myself, with peculiar satisfaction, the opportunity of meeting the working men of London, whose representatives you are, in the midst of the scene of their honourable rivalry and the display of their most meritorious achievements. Such successful competition as that which meets its due reward this day must be productive of the highest advantage to the people at large, and all classes of the community derive a benefit from the elevating tendency of the persistent industry and skill displayed in the construction of these works of art which are now about to receive the token of public commendation. Springing, as I do, from the people, and owning with you the Anglo-Saxon stock, I unfeignedly rejoice in this fresh evidence of the advancement of the industrial classes in the dignity of labour and in those habits of self-reliance and honest independence which ennoble any people and afford the surest guarantee of the true prosperity and moral greatness of any country. It is true that these prizes which I am about to distribute are the just reward of your own personal efforts; but I hope you will allow me to remind you that, in receiving your certificate of undoubted merit, you will accept it also as an acknowledgment made by you in this century which will be productive of good and redound to the advantage of future generations, who must profit by your laudable exertions in the field of scientific research, and in the open workshop of a nation's constructive skill. Should the Great Disposer

of all events give to me the happiness of returning to this country, I hope to see the complete success of projects designed by me for the permanent welfare of the deserving poor of this metropolis; and I may then enjoy further opportunities of intercourse with those in whose welfare and happiness I have so great an interest.

The prizes awarded to the successful competitors were then distributed. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which lasted a considerable time,

Mr. Peabody, acknowledging a vote of thanks which had been passed by acclamation, referred to the delight he had experienced in meeting them and in seeing the great efforts accomplished by so many working people in this great city. I trust (he continued to say) you will go on and prosper in this good work, until every working man in London shall feel that he is a man, and has the dignity of a man as much as any other individual. It only rests with themselves to do so. Let them feel they are in a position to do things which they have the power to do, and they will not only accomplish what they intend to do, but what will benefit to a great degree this great country and the whole world. I feel delighted at the manner in which I have been received to-day, and to see so many of that class of people who have accomplished so much. I say again, go on in the work you have begun, and you will find this hall will not hold one half the working people who will be entitled to receive medals for their scientific and other qualifications. On Friday or Saturday I shall be on my way to my native land, and I shall have nothing to carry with me but what I hope will be delightful to my countrymen and delightful to me.

On the motion of Mr. Head, chairman of the managing committee, seconded by Mr. Peabody, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor said he had taken a deep interest in the success of the undertaking. He himself had been a worker in the truest sense from his earliest life, and he hoped to remain a worker to the end of the chapter. Some 50,000 persons had visited the exhibition, and he had had frequent opportunities of judging of the manner in which it had been conducted. Many of them had been interested, many amused, many instructed, and, he hoped, only a few had been disappointed. It had been said that the persons whom such exhibitions were intended to benefit were not the working classes. If any man had any doubt on that subject, he should have been present that day, and witnessed the honest faces, the rough hands, and the intelligent appearance of those who had come up to receive prizes. He was not there to flatter working men. They, like all other men, had their faults. It was a fashion of the day to talk of working men and the working classes, and he held it to be a rule, confirmed by his own experience and observation, that the man who lived by the sweat of his brow was among the most useful and independent members of society. He had only to be true to himself and to his principles, and to be honest, steady, and industrious. He (the Lord Mayor) was gratified that this exhibition, in the main, had been successful. There had been no less than 827 working men exhibitors, 482 had been artificers who had exhibited articles made by their own hands, and 256 of the articles exhibited had been produced by amateurs in leisure hours. He hoped the country would continue to prosper in arts, science, and manufactures, and united in maintaining inviolate the love of country, the love of Queen, and the love of that which was dear to every enlightened citizen—their own independence.

Three cheers were then given for the Lady Mayoress, and with that the ceremony terminated.

A meeting of exhibitors, over which Mr. Galloway presided, was held in the evening at the Guildhall, at which it was agreed that a testimonial, written on vellum; and again, at a further meeting, a gold medal, struck from the die of the medal to be presented to the exhibitors; be presented to Mr. Peabody, in order to express their gratitude and their appreciation of the honour conferred upon them by his kindly condescending to distribute the prizes.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN REGENT'S PARK.**—Under the direction of the Hon. W. Cowper, Chief Commissioner of Works, great improvements are taking place in Regent's Park. At the southern extremity of the broad walk parallel to the river have been already carried out by Mr. Nesfield, upon the model of the Royal Horticultural Gardens, at South Kensington. It is now proposed, and the works have been already commenced and are in rapid progress, to extend the plantations to such an extent that, in the course of a short period, the whole space between the road running from Chester-terrace to the Royal Botanic Gardens and inner circle on the eastern side of the park will be laid out as garden-walks and flower-beds.

**ARTISAN ELECTORS.**—The Poor-Law Board has furnished an official abstract of the returns recently laid before Parliament as bearing on the proportion of artisan electors in the various constituencies. There are eighty-nine cities and boroughs in which the electors of the working classes on the register exceed 25 per cent of the total number of voters, the average being 37.2. In these constituencies (which comprise altogether 228,453 voters) there are 85,156 voters of the working class, and 100,452 male occupiers at £7 and under £10 gross estimated rental. In twenty-seven cities and boroughs the proportion of working-class voters to the rest exceeds 20 but is less than 25 per cent—22.8 being the average. Of the 85,192 electors in these constituencies, 19,570 belong to the working class, and there are 27,711 male occupiers between £7 and £10 rental. In thirty-four cities and boroughs there are 81,783 electors, of whom 14,125 are of the working class. The proportion of the latter to the whole is over 15 but under 20 per cent, the average being 17.3. Of occupiers between £7 and £10 there are 37,890. In fifty cities and boroughs the proportion is less than 15 per cent. Here the total number of electors is 92,949; 9752 belong to the working class, giving an average of 10.5; and there are 40,347 occupiers between £7 and £10. The totals for England and Wales are as follow:—Electors, 489,077; working-class voters, 128,603; average of latter to former, 26.3; number of male occupiers at £7 and under £10 gross estimated rental, 225,400.

**MR. MARSH AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.**—Mr. Marsh, M.P. for Salisbury, has received a letter signed by ninety-nine of his constituents, calling him to account for his conduct in opposing the Franchise Bill. The hon. gentleman, in reply, asserts his claim to independent action on whatever measures may be brought under the consideration of Parliament, and points out that the course he now takes in reference to the Government bill is consistent with his previously-expressed and well-known principles. Mr. Marsh then goes on to say:—“With regard to my not consulting my constituents after Lord Palmerston's death, I cannot see there was any occasion for it, as it might be presumed that there would be no change in the principles of a Government which consisted almost entirely of the same individuals as before. I think, however, that Lord Palmerston was much too good and wise a statesman to have introduced a reform bill into the House of Commons which he, in common with all really thinking people, must have known could never, under any circumstances, have been passed by such a substantial majority as to justify for one moment its being attempted to be thrust upon the other House of Parliament. I need scarcely say that I made my speech at the beginning of the Session against lowering the franchise without consulting any one; this you will, I think, infer from my general independence. Since that time others have taken the same course, and so far from thinking that they are a small and discontented faction, perhaps the division will prove that they are not so very small, and they are, I believe, only discontented with a reform bill which, by beginning to lower the franchise, must in my humble opinion inevitably lead to manhood suffrage and democracy. In fact, it is avowedly accepted by its best supporters with this view.”

**THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND'S HALF-PAY.**—For many years before his decease the late Duke of Northumberland had refrained from drawing his half-pay to which he was entitled by his rank as Admiral in the Navy. His executors, Earl Grosvenor, M.P., and Lord Redesdale, have, however, applied for and received from the Admiralty about £7408 under this head. The present Duke considering, with much generosity of feeling, that this sum could not legitimately be reckoned amongst the six or seven millions of property which he had inherited from his cousin, the late Duke, has decided upon appropriating it for the benefit of various naval charities. The Royal Naval Benevolent will receive about £5200, the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital will have £2000, and the National Life-boat Association the remainder. It would have been difficult to select more deserving charities, but the disproportion is rather startling. The merchant seamen for whom the Dreadnought is intended deserve well of their country, and, considering that the Royal Naval Benevolent Fund is already a wealthy charity, it might have been thought that the two would have shared equally. The sum to be handed over to the National Life-boat Institution is, however, even still more out of proportion, especially when it is considered that the life-boats which have been placed on the Northumberland coast have cost that society about £5000, while the benefactions of the Duke to the funds of that institution, during his long life, were limited to a single donation of a hundred guineas. The only ground of consolation is that the public is the best patron, and that in spite of the small donations of many of the great landed proprietors from whom much might be expected, the smaller subscriptions of a vast number of people have enabled the institution to do a great amount of good.—*Northern Daily Express.*

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

The Session of the French Corps Législatif has been prorogued until the 21st of December.

The election of a deputy to the Corps Législatif for the department of the Bas-Rhin has resulted in the return of M. de Bussières, the Government candidate, by 19,600 votes. M. Laboulaye, the Opposition candidate, obtained 9900 votes.

Public interest in Paris is absorbed in the dispute between Austria and Prussia. The silence of the *Moniteur* on the all-important question is regarded as an ominous symptom. In alluding to the denial in the Italian papers that a treaty of alliance had been concluded between Italy and Prussia, the correspondent of a daily contemporary says he is well assured that, though there may be no treaty in the formal acceptance of the term, an “understanding” has been come to between those two Powers, by which Italy pledges herself, in the contingency of a war between Austria and Prussia, to attack the “common enemy.”

### AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

The position of the Austro-Prussian dispute remains unchanged. The Prussian reply to the demand made by the Austrian Government that the order for the mobilisation of the Prussian troops should be rescinded has been made public. As it conveys a positive refusal, one more source of irritation and danger has been added to this unhappy controversy. From Stuttgart we learn that Bavaria and Saxony have agreed on a course of action in reference to the matter, and that the programme has been received with satisfaction by Austria. According to the *Dagblad*, the Danish Government is about to renounce its hitherto passive attitude, and take some resolutions of an active character. The *Dagblad* thinks that Denmark may yet be avenged for the injustice she has received from Germany.

At Berlin a very crowded meeting was held on Sunday, at which resolutions were unanimously carried denouncing a war between Prussia and Austria as a national misfortune, and asserting that a Liberal Prussian Ministry would alone command the general confidence required for Federal reform.

The *Neues Fremdenblatt* publishes the following particulars as to the alleged offensive and defensive treaty of alliance between Prussia and Italy:—

Italy engages to declare war against Austria as soon as Prussia shall have either declared war or committed an act of hostility. Prussia engages to carry on the war until the mainland of Venetia, with the exception of the fortresses and the city of Venice, either is in the hands of the Italians or until Austria declares herself ready to cede it voluntarily. The Prussian Government further engages to obtain for Italy the possession of the mainland of Venetia, always excepting the fortresses, and will guarantee to Italy the maintenance of her present possessions. King Victor Emmanuel, upon his part, declares that he will attack Austria upon the Mincio with 80,000 men and will throw 40,000 across the Po; at the same time the Italian fleet will cruise in the Mediterranean, will occupy the Austrian men-of-war, and make an attack upon Venice. King Victor Emmanuel further promises not to lay down his arms until the Prussians shall be in legal possession of the Elbe Duchies. The treaty is dated March 27, 1866, and signed by both Courts.

### HUNGARY.

In Wednesday's sitting the Upper House of the Hungarian Diet adopted, by 106 against 102 votes, the address which had been passed by the Lower House. M. Deak is unwell, and the labours of the committees have been consequently suspended.

Fifteen Transylvanian members have been added to the Lower House Committee on Common Affairs. A second vice-president has been elected from among the Transylvanian deputies.

### RUSSIA.

On Monday afternoon an attempt was made to assassinate the Emperor of Russia. As he was entering his carriage, after a walk in the Summer Garden, a stranger fired at him with a pistol. Fortunately, the shot did not take effect. The would-be assassin was immediately arrested. A peasant who is said to have saved the Emperor Alexander's life has been ennobled. His Majesty's escape appears to have excited the greatest enthusiasm among the people. The would-be assassin is a Russian.

### ROUMANIA.

The members of the Provisional Government at Bucharest having proposed to elect Prince Charles of Hohenzollern as Prince of Roumania, with the title of Charles I., the question was submitted to the vote of the people. The plebiscite has terminated, and Prince Charles of Hohenzollern has been unanimously elected Hospodar.

A band of 200 men, led by Mourouzi and Rosnovano, attempted, on the 14th, a separatist movement at Jassy. They were dispersed by the police, who compelled Mourouzi to fly. After this attempt the rioters, all said to be Russians, barricaded themselves in the house of Rosnovano, whence they fired upon the troops, who replied. It is said that there were fourteen killed and sixteen wounded. The people took no part in the movement. Mourouzi and his accomplices have taken refuge on Russian territory. The Metropolitan, who was at the head of the movement, has been arrested, together with the Boyards Rosnovano and Lasceco.

The Ministers who held office under Prince Couza have been impeached for wasteful expenditure of the public funds.

### TURKEY.

A Syndicate, empowered to watch over the appropriation of the funds destined for the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the general debt and of the foreign loans, has been instituted, and is composed of three Ottoman and six European bankers. This institution will in no way affect the foreign loans. Care is to be taken to maintain unimpaired the stipulations of the contracts for each of these loans, and the revenues specially assigned to each of them will be remitted to the Imperial Ottoman bank to enable it to meet its half-yearly dividends.

### THE UNITED STATES.

We have news from New York to the 7th inst. The Senate had passed the Civil Rights Bill over the President's veto by a vote of 33 to 15. It was believed that the House of Representatives will also pass the bill over the veto. An animated and excited debate occurred previous to the passing of the bill. Mr. Sullisbury declared that its enforcement would lead to war, bloodshed, and disunion.

A mass meeting had been held at Washington emphatically indorsing President Johnson's policy.

Senator Lane had introduced resolutions in the Senate for the admission of Southern members upon certain conditions. He spoke in favour of the President's policy, and declared that the Republican party was crumbling to pieces. Every day's postponement of the admission of Southern members insured the destruction of the Republican party.

President Johnson had sent a message to Congress recommending the modification of the Test Oath of 1862, and also an appropriation for the owners of the British ship *Magicienne*, which was captured as a blockade runner.

General Hawley, of the Republican party, had been elected Governor of Connecticut by a majority of 500 votes.

President Johnson had released Captain Semmes under his original parole.

General Burnside had been elected Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

The following resolution had been introduced in the House of Representatives:—

Whereas the Governors of the British Provinces have warned the American fishing-boats off the fishing-grounds adjacent to their coasts, thus indicating a design to renew the unreasonable claims made prior to the reciprocity treaty and to annoy peaceable commerce, the Secretary of the Navy is requested to send a sufficient naval force to the fishing-grounds to protect the citizens in the enjoyment of their rights, as recognised by the treaty of 1783 and subsequent treaties.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs had instructed the chairman to report the above resolution, of which Mr. Seward was said to approve.



The Fenian bondholders are growing impatient; therefore, President O'Mahony had got up two or three farces for their amusement. Reports were circulated that a force of Fenians under Killian had gone to seize the island of Campo Bello, in the Bay of Fundy. Another report asserts that a force had set out to attack Bermuda. Still another report is that the Fenians are to attempt to foment disturbances on the fishing-grounds. All this is, of course, mere talk. Stephens seems to have sent a hopeful letter to his fellow-Fenians in New York.

#### MEXICO.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 22nd ult. state that General Ogazon had proclaimed himself President of the Mexican Republic, in accordance with the Constitution of 1857.

Two hundred Imperialist prisoners of Mendez's force are reported to have been shot by the Liberals, in retaliation for the execution of Liberal prisoners.

Official Republican advices from El Paso to the 9th of March state that the Republicans had set out to occupy Chihuahua, where Juarez would shortly re-establish his Government.

#### INDIA.

By telegraph, we have news from Bombay to March 28. The Indian budget had been brought in, and was on the whole favourable, no new taxes being called for. The deficit for next year is estimated at £72,000. Cabul was reported to have been taken by Mahomed Azeem Khan.

#### PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON THE CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE following proclamation by President Johnson has, in conjunction with his veto of the Civil Right Bill, created an immense amount of excitement in America:—

WASHINGTON, April 2.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.—A PROCLAMATION. Whereas, by proclamations on the 15th and 19th of April, 1861, the President of the United States, in virtue of the power vested in him by the Constitution and the laws, declared that the laws of the United States were opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combination too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law;

And whereas, by another proclamation made on the 16th day of August, in the same year, in pursuance of an Act of Congress, approved July 13, 1861, the inhabitants of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida—except the inhabitants of that part of the State of Virginia lying west of the Alleghany Mountains, and to such other parts of that State, and the other States before named, as might maintain a loyal adherence to the Union and the Constitution, or might be from time to time occupied and controlled by the forces of the United States engaged in the dispersion of insurgents—were declared to be in a state of insurrection against the United States;

And whereas, by another proclamation on the 1st day of July, 1862, issued in pursuance of an Act of Congress, approved June 7, in the same year, the insurrection was declared to be still existing in the States aforesaid, with the exception of certain specified counties in the State of Virginia;

And whereas, by another proclamation made on the 2nd day of April, 1863, in pursuance of the Act of Congress of July 13, 1861, the exceptions named in the proclamation of Aug. 16, 1861, were revoked, and the inhabitants of the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, and Virginia, except the forty-eight counties of Virginia and the ports of New Orleans, Key West, Port Royal, and Beaufort in South Carolina, were declared to be in a state of insurrection against the United States; and whereas the House of Representatives, on the 22nd day of July, 1861, adopted a resolution in the words following—viz:—

"Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, that the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States now in revolt against the Constitutional Government, and in arms around the capital; that in this national emergency Congress, banishing all feelings of mere passion or resentment, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not waged on our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to maintain and defend the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease;"

And whereas the Senate of the United States, on the 25th day of July, 1861, adopted a resolution in the words following, viz:—

"Resolved, that the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States, now in revolt against the Constitutional Government, and in arms around the capital; that in this national emergency Congress, banishing all feelings of mere passion or resentment, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not prosecuted on our part in any spirit of oppression, nor for any purpose of conquest or subjugation, nor for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and all laws made in pursuance thereof, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired, that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease;"

And whereas these resolutions, though not joint or concurrent in form, are substantially identical, and as such may be regarded as having expressed the sense of Congress upon the subject to which they relate;

And whereas, by my proclamation of the 13th day of June last, the insurrection in the State of Tennessee was declared to have been suppressed, the authority of the United States therein to be undisputed, and such United States officers as had been duly commissioned to be in the undisputed exercise of their official functions;

And whereas there now exists no organized armed resistance of misguided citizens or others to the authority of the United States in the States of Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida, and the laws can be sustained and enforced therein by the proper civil authority, State or Federal, and the people of the said States are well and loyally disposed, and have conformed, or will conform, in their legislation to the condition of affairs growing out of the amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting slavery within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States;

And whereas, in view of the before-mentioned premises, it is the manifest determination of the American people that no State of its own will has the right or power to go out of, or separate itself from, or be separated from, the American Union, and that, therefore, each State ought to remain and constitute an integral part of the United States;

And whereas the people of the several before-mentioned States have, in the manner aforesaid, given satisfactory evidence that they acquiesce in this sovereign and important revolution of the national unity;

And whereas it is believed to be a fundamental principle of Government that people who have revolted and who have been overcome and subdued must either be dealt with so as to induce them voluntarily to become friends or else they must be held by absolute military power, or devastated so as to prevent them from ever again doing harm as enemies, which last-named policy is abhorrent to humanity and freedom;

And whereas the Constitution of the United States provides for constitutional communities only as States, and not as territories, dependencies, provinces, or protectorates; and whereas such constituent States must necessarily be, and by the Constitution and laws of the United States are, made equals and placed on a like footing as to political rights, immunities, dignity, and power with the several States with which they are united;

And whereas the observance of political equality as a principle of right and justice is well calculated to encourage the people of the aforesaid States to be and become more and more constant and persevering in their renewed allegiance;

And whereas standing armies, military occupation, martial law, military tribunals, and the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, are, in time of peace, dangerous to public liberty, incompatible with the individual rights of the citizens, contrary to the genius and spirit of our free institutions, and exhaustive of the national resources, and ought not, therefore, to be sanctioned or allowed, except in cases of actual necessity for repelling invasion or suppressing insurrection or rebellion;

And whereas the policy of the Government of the United States, from the beginning of the insurrection to its overthrow and final suppression, has been in conformity with the principles herein set forth and enumerated;

Therefore I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare that the insurrection which heretofore existed in the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida is at an end, and henceforth to be so regarded.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the second day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninetyeth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

MR. PRABODY, having been invited to a farewell banquet by a most influential body of merchants and others connected with the City, has, in a feeling reply, expressed his profound regret that he is unable to accept the invitation.

#### ENGLISH CAPTIVES IN AFRICA.

A PAINFUL interest has lately been excited by the publication of narratives which warrant a belief that a number of Englishmen have been for more than ten years past, and probably some of them still are, held as captives by the barbarous native tribes of Eastern Africa, whose cruelty and treachery were exemplified in the murder of the Belgian traveller, Baron von der Decken, who a few months since met his death at the hands of the Somali tribe.

The subject to which we have now to call the attention of our readers is very painful, not only on account of the numerous sufferers themselves, but also by reason of the prolonged anxieties, uncertainties, and suspense which have been endured by their relatives in this country. The facts are these:—In June, 1855, a ship, called the *St. Abbs*, while on a voyage from London to Bombay, struck on the island of San Juan de Nuova, off the eastern coast of Africa. In attempting to launch them, all the boats, except one, were swamped. The remaining boat was taken by the captain and two of the crew, who landed on the island, where they were afterwards joined by one of the passengers, who swam ashore (another being drowned in the attempt), and by two others of the crew. The remainder of the crew, numbering, with four young cadet passengers, twenty-six in all, continued on board the dismasted ship which, after hanging on the reef for two days, disappeared in the course of one night, and was reported by the survivors on the island to have broken up. It afterwards, however, became known that the hull of the *St. Abbs* had not gone to pieces on the island of San Juan de Nuova, but had been swept off by the current and had drifted to the coast of Africa near Magdesho, where she was boarded by the natives, who possessed themselves of everything on the wreck. A great many articles, known to have been on board the *St. Abbs*, were afterwards brought to Zanzibar and disposed of by natives of Magdesho. The *St. Abbs* was taking out Government stores, and among the articles brought for sale were light infantry bugles, cases of surgical instruments, &c., all bearing the Government mark, also boxes of books, ivory billiard balls (the *St. Abbs* was taking out several billiard-tables), surveying instruments, officers' epaulettes, &c. As the wreck occurred at the season when vessels all go north from the east coast of Africa, most of the articles recovered were conveyed to the Red Sea and Persian Gulf to be disposed of; and only those articles for which there was no sale in native markets were brought to Zanzibar to be disposed of among the European residents. No cause for doubting that those on board the vessel had perished with her was entertained until four years later, when reports reached Ceylon and the Mauritius that a number of Englishmen were in captivity somewhere on the east coast of Africa. Colonel Rigby, who was then Consul at Zanzibar, instituted inquiries which convinced him that the hull of the *St. Abbs* had been driven ashore near Magdesho, and the persons on board had been captured by the Abghal Somalis and carried into the interior. Colonel Rigby learnt that a caravan of pilgrims to Mecca from Magdesho had seen several white prisoners at one place; but, upon arriving at Jeddah, the pilgrims found that the British Consul and all the Christians had been murdered, so that there was no means of forwarding intelligence to Europe, but they mentioned the circumstances to pilgrims from Ceylon and the Mauritius, through whom they were made known to the British authorities. The Governor of the Mauritius issued a proclamation in various languages offering a reward of £100 for each white prisoner who should be restored, and a native of Magdesho, who had himself been on board the wrecked ship, incited by the reward, started for the interior, but was stopped and imprisoned at Lamoo. This circumstance is with great force urged by those interested in the subject as strong evidence of the truth of the statement that white men were actually kept prisoners in the interior. From information obtained by Colonel Rigby at Zanzibar there appears no doubt that the survivors of the *St. Abbs* were divided into two parties, one of which was taken a long distance into the interior, and the other, consisting of three persons, was kept by the Abghal tribe of Somalis, not far from Magdesho. Attention has recently been called to this subject from the circumstance that a bullock's hide brought from Magdesho to Zanzibar, which had been purchased from a caravan of Somalis, just arrived from the interior, was found to have several English letters carved on it. The man who purchased the hide put it aside, and on his arrival at Zanzibar took it to Messrs. Oswald and sons, who gave it to Colonel Playfair, the British Consul. He further stated that he had seen other hides with letters cut on them. These letters were, no doubt, carved by one of the captives—perhaps in the faint hope of their meeting the eye of some European. Colonel Rigby, who recently read a most interesting paper upon the subject before the Royal Geographical Society, states that the part of Africa inhabited by these Somali tribes is very salubrious and fertile. The natives possess large herds of cattle, and the hides are brought to Zanzibar for sale. There is communication with this part of Africa from Zeyla and Berbera on the Gulf of Aden. The Oghaden caravan to the great annual fair at Berbera traverses a great part of the country to the banks of the great river called the Wabbe Shabeli, which flows near Magdesho and Brava. Colonel Rigby suggests that the Resident at Aden might induce some of the Oghaden tribe of Somalis to rescue the captives, or, at least, to bring information as to where they are residing. Inquiries should also be made at Brava and Magdesho, and trustworthy natives be sent into the country, who, in the character of traders, might be enabled to obtain the much-desired information.

The exertions of Colonel Rigby and Colonel Playfair have resulted in the almost indubitable certainty that some, at least, of those who were on board the ill-fated vessel when she drifted from the reef reached the Somali country alive, and were detained as prisoners by the natives. It becomes interesting to know what has been done and what can be done to ascertain the fate of these unfortunate Englishmen, and to restore them, if still alive, to the relatives and friends who have for so many years been sorrowing for their loss. The local authorities at Zanzibar and at the Mauritius have made efforts which have procured some information, but not enough, and, above all, have not procured the liberation of the survivors. The slow but gradual accumulation of evidence has encouraged the relatives of the *St. Abbs*'s victims to urge upon the Government to make some decided efforts. Sir R. Murchison has thrown his philanthropic zeal and scientific ardour into the cause. Several members of Parliament have urged upon the Foreign Office the necessity and the duty of exerting all the means at its disposal to terminate the sufferings and the suspense which during so many years have been undergone by the captives in Africa and by their relatives at home. The result has hitherto not been encouraging, as no measures have been taken to ascertain the fate or to procure the release of the unhappy prisoners. It is true that the Foreign Office did make some inquiries through its agents and through the East India Office; but Brigadier Cogan, the agent at Aden, wrote, in May, 1862, that, in his opinion, it was highly improbable that any of the persons on board the *St. Abbs* had lived to reach the shore. Against that opinion, however, there is the evidence of natives who had themselves seen and who had heard of white prisoners among the Somalis, and the statements made by different persons at different places, all tending to the same point. There is the evidence of articles having been seen in the possession of, and received from, natives, which articles are proved to have been on board the *St. Abbs*, and the hides marked with English characters which have recently come to light. From all these circumstances there appears no room to doubt but that some white men were, and probably are, held in captivity by the savage tribes of the eastern coast of Africa; and whether those unhappy persons be or be not the survivors of the *St. Abbs*, it is equally a national duty to employ every effort to obtain their release, or to put an end to the prolonged suspense of their relatives in England.

THE UPPER HOUSE OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK PARLIAMENT has passed resolutions in favour of the Confederation scheme.

#### THE ADVANCE OF WAGES MOVEMENT.

THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.—When the London building operatives succeeded last August in obtaining an advance of one halfpenny per hour on the then rate of wages, making the remuneration 7½d. per hour, for a day of ten hours, the masons and joiners gave notice to the employers that they should require another halfpenny, or 8d. per hour, on May 1, 1866. Three weeks since the delegates from the joiners held a meeting and instructed the committee to send in a circular to the employers calling their attention to that notice, and requesting a reply on or before the 16th inst. This circular was duly sent in, and the result was that a special meeting of the Master Builders' Association, comprising nearly the whole of the leading firms, was held, at which the notice was taken into consideration and a sub-committee of six members appointed to effect some arrangement of the question. Mr. George Myers, the extensive builder of Lambeth, and a member of the sub-committee, sent for deputations from the masons and joiners in his employ, who number several hundred men, and asked them whether, provided the extra halfpenny per hour was granted, the men would agree to work one hour less during the winter months on all outdoor jobs and unprotected buildings, the time for working in the shop to remain at ten hours all the year round. If the men agreed to this, he was prepared to recommend that course to be taken by the masters generally. Shop meetings of the masons and joiners were held on Saturday last, when the above proposal of Mr. Myers was submitted for consideration by the deputations, and after some discussion accepted as satisfactory by a large majority of the men, and the result was at once communicated to Mr. Myers. On Wednesday evening a meeting of the carpenters and joiners of London was held to receive the reply of the employers to the memorial for an advance of an extra halfpenny per hour on the present rate of wages, or to 8½d. per hour. Upwards of 200 delegates were present. After a long and protracted discussion, the following resolution out of several proposed was carried by an overwhelming majority:—"That we accept the proposal of the master builders of 8d. per hour, with the condition that the time of nine hours per day be worked both in shops and on out-door jobs, from the 9th of November to the 14th of February." The above resolution was then ordered to be conveyed by the delegates to the employers. An adjourned meeting will be held to hear the result, which, it is anticipated, will be favourable.

THE LONDON TAILORS.—A crowded meeting of the operative tailors of the City and central London districts was held on Monday, at noon, in the City of London Theatre, Norton Folgate, for the purpose of uniting the indoor and outdoor workers in support of the memorial requesting an advance on the present wages. Mr. Neal was called to the chair. He said they were all aware of the success which had attended the movement at the West-End, mainly owing to the unity of action and feeling between the indoor and outdoor workmen. There was no possible reason why the men in the City should not be equally successful if they were only equally united. They must not expect, nor did they ask, the adoption of the same "log" in the City as was agreed to at the West-End, where the profits of employers were so much larger than in the City; but they asked that all men, whether they were now working for 4d., 5d., or 6d. per hour, should receive an advance of 1d. per hour on their present wages. He was happy to be able to inform the meeting that three of the largest employers in the City had already consented to give the advance—namely, Messrs. Nicholls and Gaines, Henry and Edwards, and Gibbs and Co. Mr. Henriette moved a resolution declaring it to be the opinion of the meeting that 1d. per hour advance on the present rate of wages paid to the journeymen tailors in the City and neighbourhood should at once take place. In doing so he announced that the lock-out of the journeymen tailors of Scotland, which had now lasted three weeks, had that morning been withdrawn, and the men had resumed work at an advance of fifteen per cent. Mr. Lawrence, president of the West-End Society, seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation. Another resolution was also carried pledging the meeting to support the committee in any action they might deem it necessary to take in furtherance of the movement. The meeting was addressed by several journeymen in support of the association, and the proceedings of a most enthusiastic meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY'S SERVANTS.—The stablemen and helpers of the General Omnibus Company have struck for an advance of wages from 3s. per day, which they now receive, to 3s. 6d., which will make their weekly wages 24s. 6d. per week, to say nothing of the 6d. per day which they receive from the drivers and cads of the omnibuses. The notice which the men gave the masters expired on Saturday night, and as the latter have not, as yet, agreed to the demand of the stablemen, the masters have issued a circular to the drivers to be at the respective stables to supply the duties of the men two hours earlier than usual.

BOLTON.—At a meeting of factory hands at Bolton last week they were told by a delegate that they ought never to be content till they get "eight hours' work, eight hours' play, eight hours' sleep, eight shillings a day." The strippers and grinders at Ashton have made a move in this direction by making a peremptory demand for an advance to 24s. per week from their present wage of 18s., and have most appropriately chosen a time when a panic in cotton is ruining many of their employers.

BLACKBURN.—The operative bricklayers of Blackburn are demanding 20 per cent increase of wages.

BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL AND THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.—A great compensation dispute between the governors of Bethlehem Hospital and the Great Eastern Railway Company was concluded on Monday, the award of the jury being decidedly in favour of the latter. The claimants asked for compensation to the amount of about £100,000; and the company, on the one hand, estimated their liability at from £11,000 to £52,000. In the course of the proceedings both sides agreed upon a sum of £10,500 as the value of the ground and rack-rents, and beyond that the award was £56,550, or £67,050 altogether.

THE NEW ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The preparations on board the Great Eastern for receiving the new Atlantic telegraph have at last been completed, and the important work of stowing away the cable in the tanks prepared for its reception was commenced on Saturday last. At the end of June or the beginning of July, according to present arrangements, the Great Eastern will again commence her hazardous enterprise of laying the cable, which everyone connected with the work is sanguine will this time be accomplished. The ship has behaved herself exceedingly well during her winter residence in Sheerness harbour; and, notwithstanding that her immense broadside has been exposed to some of the heaviest gales ever known, it has never been necessary on any occasion to get up steam, as her anchorage has been quite sufficient for her security.

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, DONCASTER.

At a late special meeting of the Town Council of Doncaster, a report was presented, handing over to the Corporation, entirely free from debt, that magnificent church, opened in 1858, the previous structure having been totally destroyed by fire in 1853. The total cost of the church was £43,128 4s. 5d.; but this by no means represents the total outlay, as the south chapel was restored by Mr. W. H. Forman, of Popplebrook House, Dorking, at a cost of about £7000. Mr. E. B. Denison, Q.C., presented the report, which is said to be second only to that in Westminster Abbey; Professor Selwyn, the font; the late Mr. Dent, the eminent clock manufacturer, gave a clock and chimes; and the organ, costing £3500, was subscribed for without any reference to the general subscriptions. The restored edifice has cost, at a most moderate estimate, £55,000. Of the total sum of £43,128 4s. 5d. raised in subscriptions, £9000 was contributed in two sums of £5000 and £4000 by the Corporation, and £30,490 4s. 5d. by the public of the country generally; £1090 15s. 6d. was the proceeds of a bazaar; the remainder was realised from interest, collections, sale of material, &c.; and a balance of £318 9s. 4d. was paid as a third contribution by the Corporation. The carving in the church cost £2596 16s. 5d.; the roofs, £11,174 10s. 10d.; and the walls and foundations, £22,872 10s. Mr. Wrightson, the chairman of the building committee, in his report, remarks:—"Every difficulty has at length been removed, and we can now give up to you your church without the slightest incumbrance upon it. Our obligations are great to the architect, Mr. George G. Scott, whose name must ever be associated with the work; to Mr. Forman, for the south-east chapel, with its splendid fittings and decorations; to Professor Selwyn and Mr. E. B. Denison, for works of art, evincing not only great liberality, but eminent architectural knowledge and taste; and to the title-owners as regards the chancel. With regard to the original documents of the church, we have requested the Mayor to take charge of them and place them among the archives of the Corporation, for reference in future ages. It is our hope and prayer that this noble edifice may long exist, not only to adorn your town and the district around it, but to promote the religious interests of its inhabitants, for whose use and benefit it is mainly designed." The report was adopted, and the council unanimously thanked the building committee individually for their efforts, and recognised the services of the hon. secretaries, Mr. Robert Baxter (Parliamentary agent) and Mr. H. Whitaker, and directed that the documents to which Mr. Bathe Wrightson had alluded should be placed among the archives of the Town Council.

Our Engravings represent the exterior and interior of this handsome edifice.





EXTERIOR OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DONCASTER.  
(G. G. SCOTT, ARCHITECT.)

#### KENT FEMALE PENITENTIARY, STONE.

THIS institution was founded, in the year 1860, by a small number of gentlemen in the county, who were anxious that a home should be established for the reception of those unhappy women who, having (generally through the fault of others) been led into vicious courses, come to see the misery of such a life, and desired to return to the paths of modesty and virtue. The penitentiary was originally started in small and somewhat inconvenient premises at

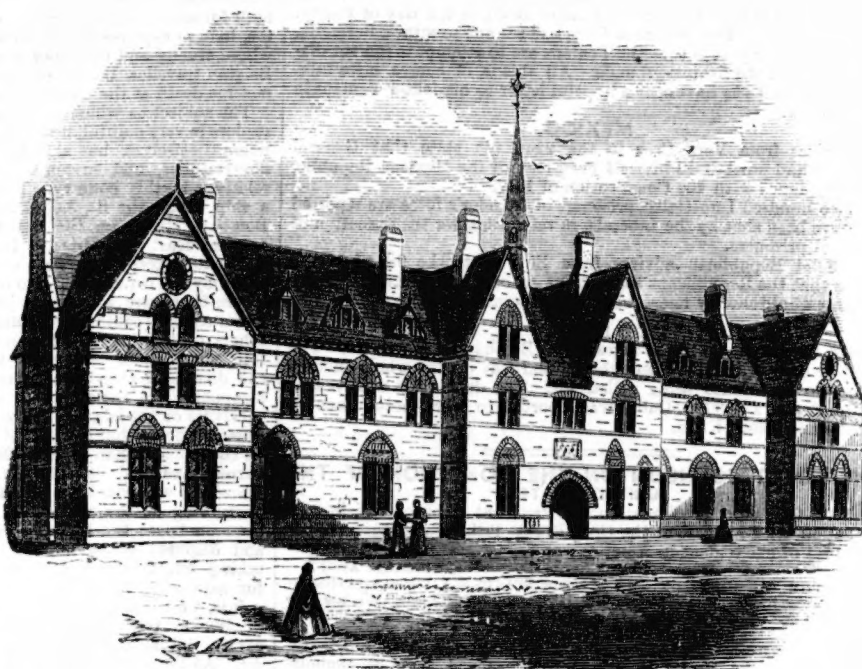
Tenterden, where it has remained up to the present time. The late and the present Archbishops of Canterbury have both given to it their countenance and support; and the council to whose management it is intrusted contains the names of noblemen, clergymen, and gentlemen well known in the county of Kent for their active benevolence and acquaintance with practical business.

It was felt absolutely necessary, as soon as possible, to obtain premises which should give larger accommodation, not only for the reception of penitent women, but also for the laundry and other work by which the institution may be made more and more self-supporting. Accordingly, after many disappointments, the site of the present buildings at Stone, near Dartford, was obtained, at a moderate price, and the first stone of the new penitentiary was laid on June 6, 1865, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant (Lord Sydney), the Bishop of Rochester, Earl Amherst, Sir Percyvall Dyke, and a large number of the laity and clergy of the county.

We have only to add that the building has been erected with a special regard to economy, and that funds are still needed to complete the cost, which has to be provided without trenching upon the ordinary resources of the institution, which are still required for its maintenance. The architect of the building is Arthur W. Blomfield, Esq., M.A.

#### FALCONRY IN ALGERIA.

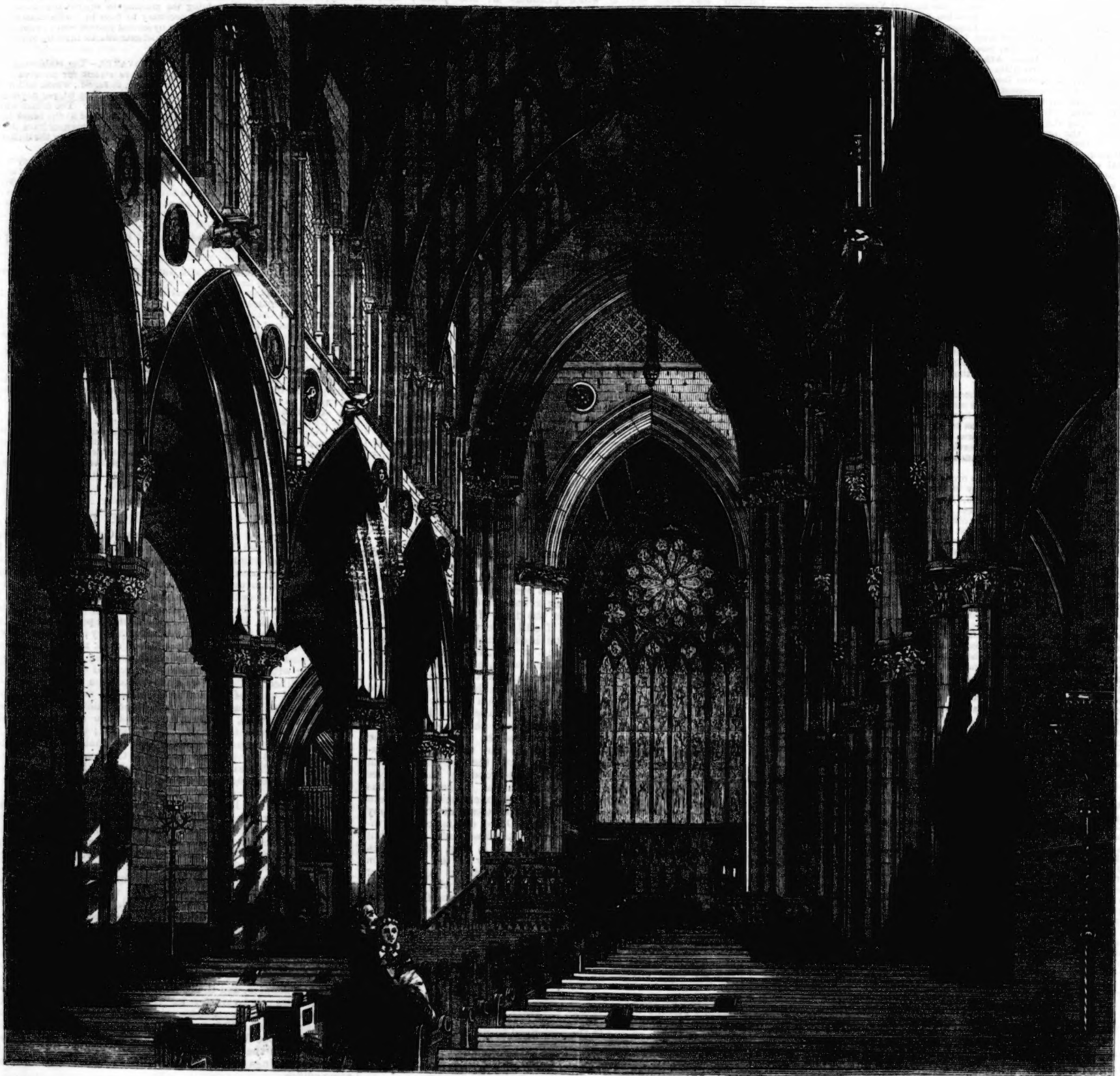
OUR Engraving, which is taken from a remarkable picture in the gallery of the Luxembourg, represents a sport which, while it is almost forgotten in England, is still one of the most popular amongst the Arab chieftains of Algiers.



THE FEMALE PENITENTIARY, STONE.—(A. W. BLOMFIELD, M.A., ARCHITECT.)

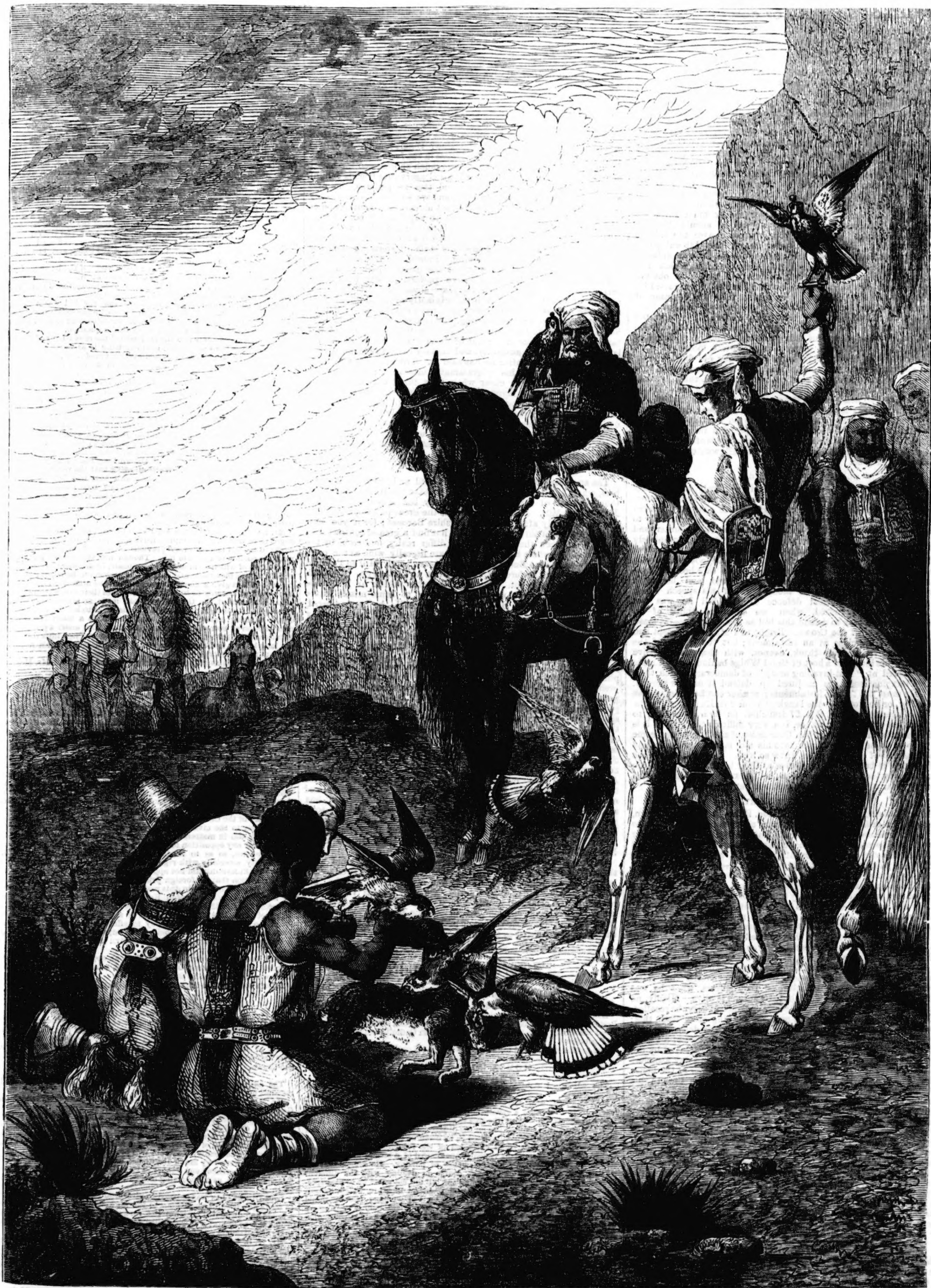
Medæval manners are still dominant amongst the Arabs, and our chivalric ancestors would feel quite at home in the Sahara. Falconry, too, is quite in fashion there with the principals of the tribes, and is thus described by Castellane in his interesting journal:—

"Farther on, two hares, frightened by the sound of our horses, darted from their cover, and the falcons were let loose again. As long as the hare can run it escapes its enemy; but when it begins



INTERIOR OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, DONCASTER.





HAWKING IN ALGERIA.

to waver, that it may seek a refuge, the bird darts on its back and begins eating its brain. Falcons are like men, some are good and others bad. It was good fun to hear the Arabs banter, jeer, and abuse the latter; and it was amusing to see the pride of the proprietor of the best bird. It is during the summer that preparation is made for the winter hunts.

"The bird when first learning to fly is caught by the fowler, and even before it is tamed it is taught to run after its prey. It is initiated at first into easy hunts, and taught to wait for its master's orders, to recognise his voice and his signal, to dart at the skin of a hare thrown into the air, and to answer different cries, which the

vivacious bird obeys with an unparalleled ardour. In this manner the falcon of the Arab becomes once more the bird of the Middle Ages, surrounded with attentions, with glory, and even with honour."

The chiefs have their right hand armed with a glove called *smoque*, which has no fingers; and the Arab exquisites wear them made of tiger or panther skin. On this the falcon perches—not unfrequently two or three find room—one on the shoulder, and another on the strings of camel's hair surrounding the cowl of the *haikh*.

The Arab horses are seen to the best advantage in the province of Bona. The equipment is well known. They have a saddle without crupper, with the high saddle and cantle of the Mamelukes,

bridles with blinkers, and chain bits, besides very short stirrups placed further back than ours. In riding the leg is, accordingly, much bent; and they use iron spikes instead of spurs. The seat is very fatiguing to those unaccustomed to it, nor would it answer for trotting—a pace never used by the Arabs, who stand in their stirrups at a gallop, leaning slightly on the top of the cantle. Common people ride barelegged; but the sheikhs wear morocco boots, in shape something like those of our knights of old. The Arabs are like children, and abuse their horses; whence they indulge in the *fantasia*, a kind of mock fight, to welcome a guest, goading their steeds at full speed, with bleeding flanks.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 276.

## REFORM DEBATE.

THE great debate on the second reading of the Reform Bill began on the 12th of April—too late for us to notice it last week. The Chancellor of the Exchequer opened the ball. When he moved the first reading of the bill complaint was made—not without some show of reason—that he did his work coldly, and to appearance was not very zealous in the cause. But all this coldness, or appearance of coldness, had vanished when he leaped from his seat to move the second reading. He had been down to Liverpool and got himself thoroughly warmed up by the enthusiasm manifested there. The friction of opposition, too, had no doubt developed his latent heat, as friction will do. In short, from whatever cause, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is now obviously terribly in earnest, and means "to do or die." And as the leader is, so are his followers. The Ministry to a man seem to have caught the ardour of Mr. Gladstone. Lord Hartington, usually one of the coldest, driest, and we may say dearest of speakers, got lively, and every now and then shot forth sparks; whilst Sir George Grey's earnestness broke through his incandescence of officialism, or rather made it, as we may say, all incandescent. This is as it should be. It looks like winning. A change, too, has come over the Liberal party generally. Before the Easter recess the Liberal party was somewhat loose and out of tune; now it is consolidated, and, so to speak, screwed up to the key-note which has been struck by its leaders. Our readers will please to observe as one cause of this change that another issue has been raised by Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone. In addition to the question of reform or no reform, we have this other question—Liberal or Conservative rule, Russell or Derby, Gladstone or Disraeli; in short, the old-world question, "Under which king? Speak or die!" There is nothing like the raising of this question to rouse the House of Commons. We have known many a man hesitate, looking on this side, then on that, divided between two, until the old flag has been raised aloft and spread out to the wind, and then at once rush into his wonted place. Before this article sees the light, this, the first real battle in the war, will perhaps have been decided. How? With the event so near, we will not venture to foretell. Nor does it really much matter; for ultimately, whether this year, or the next, or the next—with leaders so pledged and so earnest—it can be settled but one way. Meanwhile we will perform impartially our duty, and describe the battle and chronicle the deeds of the principal combatants in the fight, doing justice to all, whatever our own predilections may be.

## GLADSTONE OPENS THE BALL.

Gladstone's opening speech was begun impetuously, and at times he maintained his lofty flight. His answer to Lowe and Horsman, and his defence of the English artisans from the charges preferred against them, were in his best manner. He had somebody to grapple; foemen, moreover, worthy of his steel to encounter, and he put forth all his strength. Gladstone is never so completely himself as when he has to defend by close argumentation a solid, definite principle, or to grapple hand to hand and foot to foot with a real substantial foe. On such occasions his face becomes irradiated, his manner and tone lofty and fervid, and his style close, terse, and forcible. In those parts of his speech which he devoted to the special defence of the bill he was not nearly so happy. Indeed, when we come to think of it, it is not so easy a task to defend this bill as some suppose—at least, not for a Minister of the Crown. Bright and Mill may accept and defend this £7 franchise as an instalment; but the leader of the House, whatever he may think, cannot, with that Conservative phalanx before him, and a host of timid Whigs behind him, all more or less scared at "that invading army" of democracy which their excited imaginations have conjured up, defend it on this ground. No. He must not talk of instalments; neither can he safely speak of finality, or he would evoke laughter from his Radical supporters. He must therefore defend this £7 franchise on its own merits; to do which, as everybody must see, is a very difficult task. And it is hardly wonderful that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer came to perform it he dropped down into his old manner and tone, and that looseness of style which we know so well. However, Gladstone at his worst is better than most men at their best; and it is not too much to say that on this occasion he showed wonderful skill in steering clear of the difficulties which surrounded him.

## THE NESSUS SHIRT.

After Gladstone up rose the Right Hon. Robert Lowe—out of turn, if not out of order, for Earl Grosvenor stood next on the card, to move his celebrated amendment. But, stung to the quick by Gladstone's speech, the right honourable member for Calne could not wait the due course of events. He had, as we all saw, been writhing in pain under Gladstone's punishment—shaking his head indignantly, and at times turning very red; and, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer sat down, the House was not at all surprised to see the poor man jump up impetuously to reply, or, as he said, to explain—and he did explain—explain his explanation, as Mr. Gladstone said, volubly, and even angrily, but not with much success. Do our readers remember how Hercules shot Nessus with a poisoned arrow, and had afterwards to wear a shirt steeped in the poisoned blood of his victim—a shirt which by neither force nor art could be got rid of? Something like this has Mr. Lowe made for himself, and by no art, or skill, or force will he ever denude himself of it again. Little did he think last Session, when he delivered that fatal speech and evoked such tumultuous Tory cheers, what he was doing. The cheers are all dead, but the speech is alive. Gladly, no doubt, would he recall it, but words once spoken can never be recalled.

Of Earl Grosvenor's speech we need say nothing more than this: it was aristocratically conceived and aristocratically delivered, with all the calmness, ease, and self-possession, and absence of all show of feeling, which you might have expected to be displayed by the heir of an illustrious peerage with a thousand pounds a day attached to it. Nor can we dwell upon the speech of the heir of the house of Derby. Indeed, we have already devoted too much time to this first night, and shall content ourselves by saying, that Lord Hartington, another scion of a powerful house, spoke with more than usual power, which, by-the-way, is not saying much; that General Peel was, as he occasionally is, inspired, and poured forth a rattling, amusing, but incoherent harangue, that was cheered vociferously by the Tories, laughed at by everybody, and produced great excitement; that Banks-Stanhope got up after the gallant General and at once damped down the excitement with the wet blanket of his bucolic oratory; and that then, notwithstanding the complaint of Mr. Ayrton that the House had become "unruly" (Ayrton has no wife), and his advice that the debate should go on till three, four, or even five in the morning, the debate was adjourned. Purposely omitting what we call the padding, such were the proceedings of the first night. Was the world much the wiser for that night's debate? We think not.

## AN HONEST REFORMER.

Mr. Baxter moved the adjournment, and, according to rule, began the debate on Friday week. To his speech, however, we can devote no time nor space, except to say that he always speaks with clearness and good sense, and, what is better, with unquestionable integrity of purpose; and, of the hundred speakers in the House, of how many can this be said? And yet if a man speaks not with integrity of purpose, what is his speech worth? By integrity we mean this, Reader: First, a sincere and earnest belief in the principles advocated; and, secondly, also in the arguments used to prove them. "As I believe, so I speak," was said by one of the loftiest of preachers 2000 years ago; and if a speaker diverges from this rule we would not give a pinch of dust for all that he says. Mere attorney-logic, that can be bought in the market, though it come clothed in angelic eloquence, has no charms for us.

## "A BRILLIANT SPEAKER."

But look! Why this stir in the House? Why do the gentlemen in the gallery behind the Opposition benches rush round to the other side, and the crowd at the bar glide to their places, and the

members generally place themselves in an attitude to listen? Ah! we see. "The great orator," as the Conservative gentlemen delight to call him, the Right Hon. Sir Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer Lytton, is on his legs, and is going to deliver himself of a speech. See, he has approached the table and has placed his manuscript before him, as his manner is. Sir Edward, as our readers all know by this time, always elaborately prepares his speeches—writes them out verbatim; and it is whispered that he even gets them by heart, and has the copy before him lest his memory should fail him. But think not that we blame him for taking these precautions—that he carefully prepares his speeches, elaborates his arguments in his study, polishes his sentences, and points and re-points his epigrams. On the contrary, he deserves praise rather than blame. Did not Demosthenes do the same? Blame him! No! Would that every man who addresses the House in set form were compelled to do the same; we should then have much shorter and far better debates than we have. Sir Edward, his Conservative friends delight to tell us, is a brilliant speaker, and this is, perhaps, the best epithet that can be applied to him; and we suspect that brilliancy is the main object at which Sir Edward aims in the composition of his speeches, and it is not too much to say that he achieves his object. His speeches, when he is in his happiest mood, sparkle, and glitter, and coruscate at every turn like diamonds—or, rather, say glass—cut into facets. Of course his style of speaking does not admit of close, consecutive reasoning. Indeed, Sir Edward is not a reasoner; seeing that he has spent the greater part of a long life in cultivating his imaginative powers, it would be wonderful if he were. Wandering for years almost exclusively in the regions of fancy, if he had been originally never so gifted with reasoning powers they must necessarily have run to waste; but we suspect that he never was so gifted. The effect thus produced upon Sir Edward's audience is pleasure for the time. He excites our fancy; he charms our taste; but he never shakes our opinion. He is never quoted as an authority, and nobody cares to recollect what he has said an hour after he has said it. True, there is a show of philosophy in some of his epigrammatic utterances; and how the squirearchy behind him cheer when they think they discern that philosophy is in their favour! but when you come to examine it closely it is but questionable philosophy after all. Thus, Sir Edward told us that Democracy seemed appropriate only to the youth of nations, and vociferously did squirearchy applaud this seemingly profound remark. Well, is it true? Let the history of all European nations supply the answer. Sir Edward sat down, as he always does, amid a perfect tempest of applause.

## A CONTRAST.

The applause was loud and long continued, and many of the members, whilst the gale was blowing, rose to leave the House. Suddenly, though, most of them were arrested by the appearance of Mr. John Stuart Mill. It was curious that the great philosopher should rise immediately after the Hertfordshire Baronet; for if you were to pick the world through you would not find a greater contrast than there is between these two. They differ really, *to the core*, by the breadth of the whole heavens. They are literally wide as the poles asunder—as wide as Bulwer's "Eugene Aram," and "Mill on Political Economy"—and the force of contrast can no further go. This was really Mr. Mill's debut. The short speeches which he had made before this were mere preludes, arguing to some minds future failures. Thus Mr. Robert Lowe, it will be remembered, when Mr. Mill made his first speech, threw out the unworthy taunt that "the honourable member for Westminster was too clever by half"—which taunt, by-the-way, in this great speech, Mr. Mill repaid by one of the most graceful compliments; and that dull soul, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, amidst Tory cheers, exclaimed, sneeringly, in reply to something Mr. Mill had said, "This may be philosophy, but it is not common-sense." To us, however, these preludes were a foretaste of something great to come, like the preparatory fantasias of a Hallé or an Ernst. But now, readers, expect not of us an adequate description of Mr. Mill's great reform speech, for it is not in our power to give it. Let it suffice to say that it was, in the first place, something entirely new in the debates of the House. Search Hansard from the time that record first began, and you will find nothing like it for purity of style and closeness of reasoning; and, secondly, as we venture to think, nothing like it for the effect which it produced upon the House. And by this we mean, not that it evoked applause, for there was but little comparatively of that. Mr. Mill aimed not at applause. He cares not for temporary admiration, but has a higher, nobler aim—viz., to clear away fallacies, and, by solid reasoning, to carry conviction to the minds of his hearers. When Mr. Mill sat down the House cleared. As the Liberal members passed the gangway not a few stepped out of their way to thank Mr. Mill.

Of the reform debate there is little else worth saying, and what there is must be passed over for want of space. On Tuesday we had a discussion upon the malt tax, and again Mr. Mill spoke; but of this speech we can only say that, whilst it was as vigorous in reasoning and clear and beautiful in style as the other, it developed a new quality in the speaker; for, in addition to the close reasoning, there was an effluence of some of the most beautiful sentiments that were ever offered to the House.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord WESTMOUTH, in moving for copies of declarations to be taken by Protestants taking office under the Crown, inveighed strongly against proposed changes in the oaths to be taken by Roman Catholic and other members of Parliament.

The motion was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.  
THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate on the Representation of the People Bill was resumed by

Mr. BAXTER, who derided the apprehensions which treated this £7 franchise as if it were a revolution, and warned the House that it was by wise and timely concessions like this that violent changes had been and must be again avoided. Commenting on the difference between the resolution and the language of those who supported it, he dwelt on the remarkable fact that those who opposed this small extension of the franchise, which was practicable, professed themselves violently enamoured of a large and comprehensive measure which there was no chance of passing. He argued that the Government had taken the wisest course in dealing with the different branches of reform separately. Though the bill did not come up to his expectations, he welcomed it as an honest and practical measure, which, by conferring a fair share of political power on the working classes, would strengthen the institutions of the country and would help a satisfactory settlement of many vexed questions, such as those which were in contention between labour and capital.

Sir B. LYTON followed, and commenced an eloquent and loudly-applauded speech by a happy definition of the distinction between the reforming and revolutionary provisions of a bill of this character, complaining that of the first class the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not given the House a single glimpse, while he had vastly underrated the revolutionary effects of his bill. While acknowledging to the fullest extent the social claims of the working classes, and recognising the many virtues of democracy—though he did not believe it fitted for a country like this—he stated objections to the preponderance in an electoral system of any one class, and proved in an elaborate argument that this bill would give the upper hand to the working classes in our representative system, and must lead to the goal of democracy. He dilated on the practical inconveniences in foreign policy and other matters of the predominance of the democratic element in a Chamber which possessed so much authority over the Executive as the House of Commons, showing that in foreign Legislatures elected by universal suffrage such questions were withdrawn from their control. Turning to the provisions of the bill, he censured its incompleteness and its uniformity of suffrage, maintaining that its manner of dealing with the question deprived the House of any guarantee that the plan of redistribution which the Government were to submit before the next stage would be the plan submitted next year for actual adoption, and expressed a doubt whether, having by this bill swamped or abolished the present constituencies, and having thus to some extent lost its representative character, the House would have a right to deal with the redistribution of seats. Addressing himself in the conclusion of his speech to the Liberal party, Sir B. Lytton turned on them Mr. Gladstone's advice

"to be wise in time," and described the motives which ought to guide the decision of this question.

Mr. J. S. MILL described the upshot of the arguments for the amendment as amounting simply to an objection to allow the £7 householders to influence the redistribution of seats, and made light of the scruples which, while committing to them taxation and other functions of government, feared to trust them with a revision of the representation. He welcomed this bill, even unaccompanied by any other measure, as a valuable gain, and professed himself entirely unimpressed by any terror of the admission of the working classes. He asserted that, so far from being a step towards democracy, this was, in fact, a Conservative measure, as embodying a representation of classes rather than of numbers, and argued that the interests of the working men never had a larger and more direct representation. Appealing to the example of the United States, he denied that it was a characteristic of democracy to be obstinate or unteachable, expressing his belief that the working classes would correct their faults more readily than any other class when warned of them in a friendly and sincere spirit, and enumerated various measures for the repression of ignorance, disease, pauperism, and crime which a larger admission of working-class representation would enable the House of Commons to handle with greater effect.

Mr. LIDDELL, while allowing that the bill taken by itself might, in some respects, be called moderate, asserted that in its effects on the county representation it was insidiously destructive.

When Mr. Liddell sat down some half dozen members rose in a cluster on the Ministerial benches to follow him, from whom the Speaker selected

Mr. HANBURY, who, as a large employer of labour, and the representative of a constituency (Middlesex) which would be much affected by the bill, supported it as consonant with the spirit of the times, and justified by the requirements of the working classes.

Mr. SELWIN denounced the bill as a disturbance of the balance of political power, and destructive of agricultural representation.

Sir F. GOLDSMID vindicated the course pursued by the Government, and combated some of the arguments of Lord Stanley.

Lord R. MONTAGU expressed his belief that the bill was a farce, never intended by its authors to be passed, and quoted numerous contradictory and irreconcilable passages from speeches of Mr. Gladstone to show that he was unworthy of confidence as a leader on so vital a question.

Sir G. GREY commented on the language of the resolution and the speeches by which it had been supported, characterising it as vague and ambiguous, and contrasting it with Earl Russell's resolution of 1859, which contained a decided principle and pledged Parliament to a reduction of the borough franchise. In tracing the history of the bill of 1860 and the subsequent course of Lord Palmerston's Government in regard to reform, he provoked much merriment and ironical cheering from the Opposition, and was as loudly applauded by his own supporters when he declared that the bill was not so much a boon to the working classes as an advantage to the whole community, by admitting them to a more direct share in the representation. After contending that the majority of the Opposition by their speeches and their election addresses were pledged to reform, he vindicated the mode of proceeding by separate bills as best calculated to lead to a practical and satisfactory settlement, and explained that the main object was to admit to the franchise as large a portion of the working classes as possible without overwhelming other classes. While allowing that the redistribution of seats was a vital portion of reform, he contended that this bill by itself was a valuable step in advance, and, having shown how impracticable was the suggestion to settle the question by a Commission or a Committee of the Privy Council, Sir George concluded an effective and spirited address by calling on the House to resist an amendment which was equivalent to an indefinite postponement of reform.

Mr. LAING denied that the amendment meant anything but that reform ought to be treated in a comprehensive spirit, and redistribution, he asserted, ought to be, and had on every previous occasion been, considered an indispensable portion of a reform bill. Though not attributing great weight to the pledges of which so much had been made, he allowed that the settlement of reform was inevitable, and defined the problem to be to admit the working classes without giving them preponderance—the difficulty arising not from their want of morality or intelligence, but from their overwhelming numbers. This, he contended, the Government had made no attempt to solve. After a careful analysis of Mr. Gladstone's statistics as to the income and taxation of the working classes, showing that they made a fancy franchise of the consumption of beer and tobacco, he predicted that under a democratic Constitution the hard-won victories of free trade and non-intervention would not long be safe, and earnestly exhorted the moderate Liberals not to prefer party to their country's interests.

The debate was adjourned at midnight, on the motion of Mr. Maguire.

MONDAY, APRIL 16.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

## PARLIAMENTARY OATHS BILL.

Earl RUSSELL moved the second reading of this bill, in a speech in which he took a historical view of the question, and contended that there was now no necessity for continuing the offensive oaths which Roman Catholics had hitherto been compelled to take.

The Earl of DERBY, while admitting that those portions of the existing oath which were offensive and unnecessary ought not to be retained, said it was, nevertheless, a question whether that portion which was introduced for the protection of the Protestant Church in Ireland should be struck out. He concurred in the advisability of having one uniform oath; but the oath, in whatever terms it was framed, ought to express allegiance to the reigning Sovereign, recognise the Protestant succession, and maintain the supremacy of the Crown. A difficulty, however, arose as to the mode in which the supremacy of the Crown should be expressed, and whether it was to be confined merely to the civil and temporal authority of the Crown, or to its supremacy also in matters ecclesiastical. He did not propose on that occasion to offer any opposition to the bill; but he thought it might be amended in Committee, so as to render it more acceptable to all classes of the community, especially with regard to the question of supremacy.

Lord CHELMSFORD did not approve of the omission from the new oath of the declaration that no foreign prince, potentate, or prelate, hath or ought to have jurisdiction within this realm, and the disclaimer of any intention to interfere with the Church Establishment. In Committee on the bill, therefore, he should move by way of proviso to the sixth clause, "That the repeal of these Acts or any of them, or any part thereof, shall not be construed to weaken or in any way to affect any laws or statutes now in force for preserving and upholding the supremacy of our lady the Queen, her heirs and successors, in all matters civil and ecclesiastical, within this realm."

Earl RUSSELL had not, of course, had an opportunity of considering the terms of this amendment, but he expressed a hope that it might be found there was no objection to them.

After a short debate the second reading was agreed to.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## ELECTION PETITIONS.

Mr. H. VIVIAN brought up the report of the Committee on the Reigate election petition, unopposed Mr. G. Leveson Gower and declaring the last election for that borough null and void. Mr. Lowe also brought up the report of the Cambridge Election Committee, declaring Mr. Forryth not duly elected, on the ground of his holding an office of profit and reward under the Crown.

## THE REFORM BILL.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Reform Bill was resumed by

Mr. MAGUIRE, who argued that the honour of successive Parliaments and Governments was pledged to reform, and that they were bound to redeem that pledge. The present was, he thought, a most opportune moment to settle the question, for, although there was no violent excitement out of doors, there was a strong under-current of feeling on the subject. He denied altogether the right of Messrs. Horsman and Lowe to speak in any name but their own. The country no doubt was proud of those gentlemen, but their constituents were very much dissatisfied with them. He did not think the House need apprehend any danger to its constitution from the passing of the present measure, as the working classes would not send any fustian jackets to it.

Lord DUNKELIN was opposed to piecemeal legislation; and, while willing to make any needful concessions to the working classes, could not consent to a crude and disjointed measure put forward as a portion of something else which was to follow, and which had not been recommended upon any intelligible or satisfactory principle.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER addressed himself chiefly to the arguments against the bill advanced by Lord Stanley on the first night of the debate. He contended that the only issue before the House was whether the borough franchise should or should not be reduced in the manner proposed. For his own part, he would have preferred to see a lower franchise; but as every one seemed to think that the time had come for admitting the élite of the working classes to the franchise, he could not see upon what ground a £7 franchise could be opposed. It would be impossible to bring the working classes within the pale of the Constitution in a safer manner than that suggested; and the House might depend upon it that, if the concession now asked for their behalf were not granted, much more would have to be given hereafter.

Mr. McKENNA opposed the bill, as he declined to place a blind confidence in the Government. Looking to the anomalous condition of Ireland, he thought that remedial measures ought to precede Parliamentary reform.

Sir J. SIMON asked whether it was wise to allow an opportunity like the present to pass for purchasing the gratitude and affection of the working classes.

Mr. J. LOWTHER referred to several recent reform meetings, to show that the speakers were not persons of a class on whom it would be desirable to confer the franchise.

Sir F. CROSSLEY taunted the Opposition with professions of liberality, while at heart they were bitterly opposed to any extension of the franchise. The present concession was, in his opinion, a very moderate one, to which the education and good conduct of the working classes entitled them.



Mr. ADDERLEY denied that the Opposition were unwilling to entertain the question of the reduction of the franchise when they resisted the injudicious, incomplete, and inconvenient way in which the Government had brought the measure forward. He complained that the transfer of leasehold and copyhold votes from the boroughs was intended not to swamp but to annihilate the agricultural interest in the counties. The right hon. gentleman protested against the course pursued by the Government in asking the House to pass a fragmentary measure, the consequences of which it would be impossible to predict.

Mr. LAYARD observed that the only speaker who, in supporting the amendments, had dealt with the merits of the question was Lord Stanley; and proceeded to argue that the working classes had a right to be represented, that the presence of their representatives in the House would be useful and valuable, and that it was the merest bugbear to say that they would swamp the other classes of the community. It had been alleged that, if the working classes had the power, this country would have gone to war on the Danish and Polish questions; but he denied that that was true, for it was by those working classes that the Government were supported in their determination to observe neutrality. If the danger of war was at any time imminent in connection with those subjects, it arose rather from the course which had been taken by the Opposition. He did not ask the House to be generous to the working classes, but to be just towards them; and, if this policy were pursued, instead of one of coldness and distrust, the effect would be to strengthen yet more the affection which they now entertained towards the Throne and the institutions of the country.

Sir H. CAIRNS replied to Mr. Layard, and asserted that, so far from the Opposition being responsible for the country drifting into war on the Danish question, Mr. Cobden had declared in his place in Parliament that the despatches of the Government were rapidly tending towards that result. He was willing to admit that there ought to be a fair representation of the working classes. In the boroughs there was already a substantial representation; and the only question that remained was whether it ought to be increased, and whether there should be a larger representation in counties. So far as boroughs were concerned, the bill would give the working classes a majority in constituencies returning 133 members, and the bill for redistributing seats would give them fifty more, making 180 in all, which, if dextrously wielded, would give a preponderating power to the representatives of those boroughs. The hon. and learned gentleman criticised the statistics of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which, he said, would admit a much larger number of persons to the franchise than he represented, and maintained that the speech of Lord Stanley was unanswerable and unanswered.

On the motion of Mr. Graham, the debate was, at a late hour, adjourned.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 17.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord STRATHEDEN moved that a Select Committee be appointed to examine the electoral returns laid upon the table with reference to the changes which they suggested as desirable or necessary in the rights of voting, and to inquire into the conditions upon which the occupation franchise may be lowered with advantage in counties and boroughs in England and Wales.

Earl RUSSELL met the motion with the objection that, although the returns might form the basis of a measure, he did not see what suggestions could be derived from them with regard to the rights of voters.

The motion was negatived.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE MALT TAX.

Sir F. KELLY submitted a motion to the effect that upon any future remission of indirect taxation the House should take into consideration the duty upon malt, with a view to its immediate reduction and ultimate repeal. The hon. and learned gentleman argued that the maintenance of so high a duty as that levied upon malt, while the duty upon wine had been reduced to a nominal sum, was an act of gross injustice to the poor man, whose chief beverage was beer. He also argued that the adulterated and poisonous stuff retailed at an enormous profit by the keepers of public-houses was baneful to the health and morals of the people, and that if the malt duty were taken off good beer might be sold at 7d. per gallon. He had himself made an excellent and wholesome beverage at rather less than 4d. per gallon. Three fifths of the whole sum produced by the excise was contributed by the working classes; and yet the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who overwhelmed them with this weight of taxation, professed to be their friend. He called upon the right hon. gentleman to deal fairly with the agricultural interest, and make a commencement towards the extirpation of a tax so burdensome in its operation, and so destructive of the health, morals, and industry of the people.

The motion was seconded by Mr. R. J. MORE.

Mr. NEATE moved, by way of amendment to the original motion, "That, in the present state of the taxation and resources of the country, it is the duty of Parliament to make provision for the systematic reduction of the National Debt, and not to sanction any proposal for any repeal or change of taxes which is likely to be attended with a diminution of the revenue."

Mr. J. S. MILL, in seconding the amendment, contended that if the House were to abolish a tax of five or six millions, merely for the satisfaction of spending the amount in some other way, it would be a criminal dereliction of duty. If they could, by increasing the national resources, or by retrenchment in the public expenditure, dispense with the malt tax, how much wiser and worthier would it be to set apart the money as a fund for the extinction of the National Debt. Entertaining this view, he earnestly impressed upon the House the circumstance that every really great nation had acknowledged the claims of posterity. It might, of course, be asked what had posterity done for us. But this involved a mistake; for whatever had been done for mankind by a philanthropic concern for posterity, and a conscientious sense of duty to posterity, even by the less pure, yet still noble, ambition of being remembered and honoured, we owed to posterity, and it was our duty to the best of our ability to repay the obligation.

Mr. C. S. READ (who described himself as "a raw member") supported the original motion, on the ground that farmers, as a class, had derived less advantage from free trade than any other section of the community, and that the trade in malt was a gigantic monopoly which began with the maltster, passed on to the brewer, and culminated in the licensing system.

Sir E. BULLER, Mr. SURTEES, and Mr. P. URQUHART advocated the repeal of the duty.

Mr. BUXTON, as a brewer, exposed the fallacy of the general impression that persons in his trade made enormous profits. The chief cost of manufacturing the beer was not, he said, the raw material, but the subsequent distillation. He admitted, however, that the malt tax was a mischievous one, as it did harm alike to the farmer, the brewer, and the consumer; but, as its repeal was purely a question of finance, he could not support the motion.

Mr. M. LAREN opposed the motion, and pointed out that tobacco and whisky were taxed at the rate of 600 per cent. To repeal the malt tax and leave the tax on whisky would be to sacrifice the distillers to the brewers.

Mr. DUCANE and Mr. BEACH spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr. AYRTON thought the agricultural classes (who never appeared to know the happiness of their position) ought to be very grateful that beer was not taxed in proportion to spirits.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER expressed a hope that the amendment of Mr. Neate would be withdrawn, as it raised far too important an issue to be considered in an incidental manner. He objected to the motion principally because it proposed to pledge the House to deal with gigantic sums of money. It would be impossible to make any appreciable reduction in the malt tax which would not involve a loss to the revenue of about two millions and a half of money, and this was at present altogether out of the question. He denied that the agricultural interest had made out a special claim to relief, and, although he would be glad to see the malt tax, like all other taxes that pressed upon the industry or curtailed the enjoyments of the people, diminished, he positively declined to give any pledge on the subject which he could see no prospect of realising.

Mr. NEATE having withdrawn his amendment, the House divided, and the motion of Sir Fitzroy Kelly was negatived by 235 to 150.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## PUBLIC COMPANIES BILL.

Mr. DARBY GRIFFITH moved the second reading of his Public Companies Bill, the object of which is to enable shareholders voting by proxy to vote after they are acquainted with the proceedings of meetings in which they are interested. The bill was read a second time.

## THE HOP TRADE.

Mr. HUDDLESTON moved the second reading of the Hop Trade Bill, the object of which was to prevent the substitution and sale of inferior hops for those of a superior quality, and to prohibit the system of false packing. The measure was rendered necessary by the insuperable character of the existing law. The respectable portion of the trade was universally in favour of the bill, the leading feature of which was to compel the owner, planter, or grower to mark the year as well as the place of growth and the weight, as previously determined by the Excise.

Mr. B. HOPE proposed to adjourn the consideration of the question for six months, and stated that he should press his opposition to the utmost, unless those who had charge of the bill would consent to expunge the clauses which imposed the necessity of marking on the packets the name of the grower, the date of the growth, and the parish and county in which they were produced.

Eventually, however, the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill read a second time.

## BANK NOTES IN IRELAND.

Mr. C. O'LOUGHLIN then moved the second reading of a bill for making Bank of England notes a legal tender in Ireland, and for removing some restrictions as to Irish banks of issue.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the bill, which, after a brief discussion, was withdrawn.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 19.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## PARLIAMENTARY OATHS AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order of the day for going into Committee on this bill, Earl RUSSELL was understood to say that the Government had accepted the amendment proposed by the noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Derby) with regard to the supremacy of the Crown. After some other observations, the clauses were proceeded with seriatim.

The Marquis of BATH rose to propose an amendment, of which he had given notice, with respect to the clause by which it was proposed to relieve the Jews and Roman Catholics from a grievance which he (the noble Marquis) could not but consider more imaginary than real. It seemed to him that it was proposed almost to un-Christianise Parliament by the oath proposed. He confessed he could not understand the present agitation. There was no demand for a change—all was peaceful under the present law. For himself, the noble Marquis said that he could not silently permit the indignity of such a bill being passed in their Lordship's House.

Earl RUSSELL said that while the compromise of 1858 was a very just and convenient one, something more now was necessary in the matter. What the Government had to consider was, how they could make a general law which should place all the members of Parliament on an equal footing, and he thought that such an oath was found in that now proposed.

Lord CHELMSFORD said that with regard to the Jews, by the resolution already passed and referred to, they were admitted into the House of Commons; and if her Majesty should be pleased to raise any person to the dignity of a peer it would be extremely inconvenient to alter the oath. He should therefore support the proposed uniform oath, seeing nothing to fight against in it.

The amendment of the Marquis of Bath was then negatived without a division.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE REFORM BILL—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

Mr. W. GRAHAM believed the measure to be just in principle, although he should rejoice had one or two provisions been omitted—he meant those provisions referring to the disfranchisement of Government servants and to the savings bank deposit. Notwithstanding these trifling exceptions, he believed, as he had said, that the bill was just in principle, moderate and prudent in scope and extent, and eminently judicious in the form in which it had been introduced into this House.

Lord ELCHO then rose to address the House, and said that he had been struck with the haste with which the Government had introduced the measure. The question had been treated in an impulsive and fragmentary way, and he was alarmed at the wild sentimentalism with which the bill was defended in default of argument. He denied that he was actuated by hostility to the Government, and complained strongly of Earl Russell's reference to him after he had drawn up and placed at the disposal of the Government a paper which had led to the collection of the Government statistics. He denied that this Parliament was pledged to reform. He should support the amendment, for there had not been the faintest attempt to answer the arguments of Lord Stanley. He commented in sarcastic terms on the pitiable spectacle exhibited by the hon. Baroness the member for Gatehead, and reminded him of the words of Burke with respect to the independence of members. In conclusion, he warned the House of the results of playing into the hands of the extreme section of the Liberal party, which had hitherto been kept in check by the more moderate majority of that party under the late Lord Palmerston; and, believing that this moderate majority was not prepared to adopt these extreme views, they would before long thank the noble Lord who had brought forward this resolution for not only having saved the party, but for having also preserved the monarchical Constitution and the free and liberal institutions of the country.

Sir W. HUTT explained his conduct, and said that he had withdrawn the resolution of which he had given notice because he found that he was likely to become the cat paw of the anti-reform party.

Mr. BRERESFORD HOPE condemned the conduct of the Government. He admitted the great qualities of many individuals amongst the working men, but contended that on all questions affecting trade and industry they must act together in accordance with the traditions and prejudices of their respective crafts.

Mr. HUGHES gave his support to this suffrage bill for the very reason that Lord Elcho opposed it—because it was only a franchise bill; and his object in so doing was precisely this: the extreme Liberal party had at last discovered a Government which had the courage to look the question in the face, and the wisdom to see that the reduction of the franchise was the first and vital point of the whole question. He should have preferred a lower borough franchise; but this bill would just admit the best of the operative classes, and for that reason it ought to be accepted favourably as a moderate measure, especially by hon. gentlemen opposite, who were not again likely to get so moderate a bill.

Mr. DOULTON complained of the unwarranted charge that those who refused to blindly follow the Government were therefore opposed to all reform. He did not think the conduct of the Government with respect to Church rates and University tests entitled them to ask for this confidence from the Liberal party. He was not a slavish follower of the Government, but an independent member; still, if they would bring in a bill for the redistribution of seats, no one would more earnestly support them, but this bill he could not in his conscience vote for.

Mr. MILNER GIBSON said that, if the hon. member had no confidence in the statement of the head of the Government, he was quite right to take his own course; but, after his opinions to-night, he was surprised to find that the hon. member had voted for the franchise bill of Mr. Baines. He was astonished to find that, when the Government had proposed a measure of this kind, it was not accepted by the Liberal party. He justified the policy adopted by the Government on the ground that it was necessary to clear the way by ascertaining what the House would do with respect to the reduction of the franchise in the counties and boroughs, and contended that the House would be as free as ever to deal with the other parts of the question.

Mr. GATHORNE HARDY, at considerable length, examined the statistics on which the Government had based the bill, contending that it made out a very strong case for a redistribution of seats, but no case whatever for an indiscriminate reduction of the franchise.

On the motion of Mr. L. GOWER the debate was again adjourned.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1866.

## THE SICK POOR OF LONDON.

AGITATION and legislation—that is, good, useful, practical legislation—are strongly antagonistic. What is done in a hurry, in a state of excitement, is never done well; and when the minds of Parliament and the public are absorbed in one question, others of great social importance are apt to be neglected. Hence it is desirable that Parliamentary Reform should be settled as speedily as possible, and in such a way as to dispose of the matter for a considerable time at least, and so clear the way for the consideration of other questions of scarcely less moment.

One such subject is the treatment of the sick poor. It is admitted on all hands that the existing system is radically bad—in the metropolis, at all events; and probably it would be found equally so throughout the provinces were the same amount of attention and scrutiny directed to the doings of provincial boards as are brought to bear upon those of London. Mr. Villiers told the deputation that waited upon him on Saturday last that he was not at all surprised at recent disclosures; that the Poor-Law Board had often similar cases brought before it; and that the worst was not by any

means known to the general public, who never heard of one half of the suffering, hardship, and neglect endured by the sick poor. When the evils of the existing system are admitted even by the highest authority on the subject, the question naturally arises, What hinders the application of a remedy? Mr. Villiers furnishes an answer in a formula with which we are perfectly familiar. There are difficulties in the way; the subject has not been sufficiently considered; men are not agreed; prejudices have to be overcome; funds must be provided; new rates will be required, and a complete revolution in parochial management will be involved. All which simply means that Mr. Villiers and his colleagues are too much occupied with other matters to have either the time or the inclination to apply themselves to the task of maturing a plan for the better conduct of parochial affairs, especially as regards the treatment of the sick poor—in other words, agitation and preoccupation on one subject preclude legislation on another. It is highly desirable, therefore, that the cart of Reform, which now blocks the way and prevents the passage of other measures, should be got rid of as speedily as possible, in order that, among other things, the sick poor may no longer be allowed to perish for lack of proper provision for their treatment.

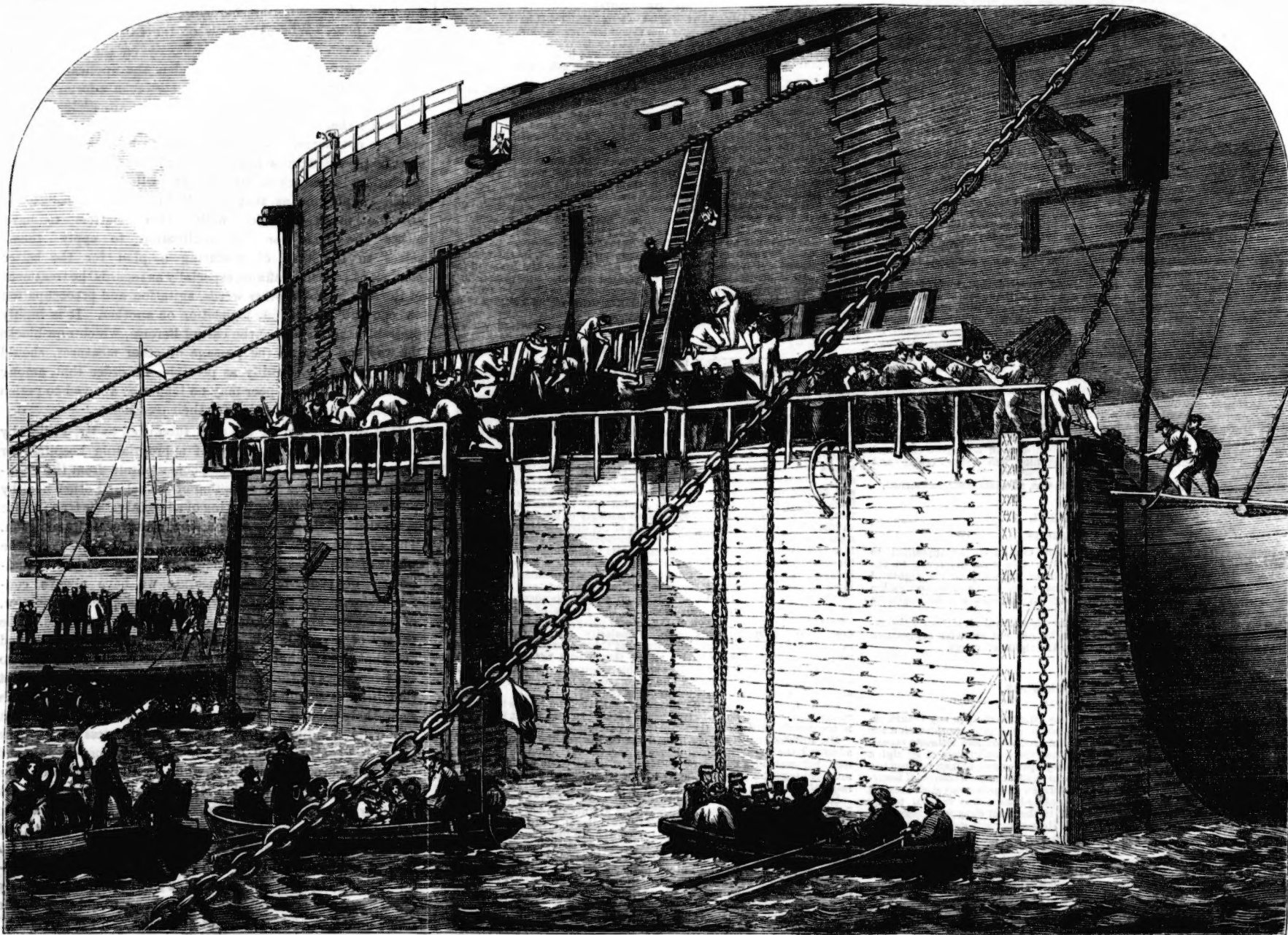
That the adoption of the plan submitted to Mr. Villiers by the deputation, on Saturday, of appropriating hospitals for the accommodation of the sick poor, separate from the work-houses designed for the reception of casual and other healthy paupers, will involve the levying of a special rate is true; and it is for that, amongst other reasons, that we advocate its adoption. The sick-poor rate must, of course, be a general rate over the whole metropolis, and that would be a step towards the equalisation of poor's-rates—a measure we have always contended for, and of the necessity, as well as propriety and justice, of which we are every day more and more convinced. The theory of a poor law is, as we have more than once pointed out, that the rich out of their abundance should contribute to the necessities of the poor; and it is quite as reasonable that rich districts should aid poor districts as that rich individuals should help poor ones. Besides, the whole system of management would be simplified, and thereby rendered less costly. The rates, if general, could be both collected more cheaply and expended more economically; while, by the adoption of some such plan as that submitted to Mr. Villiers on Saturday, the sick and infirm poor—the really necessitous poor, who are unable to help themselves—could be separated from sturdy vagrants, and both classes receive appropriate treatment. The hospital for the sick, and the workhouse—in its original and proper sense—for the able-bodied, where the one class could be properly tended and the other compelled to labour, would then be the rule; and the accomplishment of such a result is surely well worthy the most enlightened and most vigorous action. We trust, therefore, that the Reform Bill obstacle will speedily be got rid of, and that Mr. Villiers and his colleagues will devote the leisure thereby obtained to concentrating their attention upon so useful a reform as that contemplated by the association represented by the noblemen and gentlemen who waited upon the President of the Poor-Law Board on Saturday last. At all events, we hope that association will not rest from its efforts till it has compelled the official mind to give attention to the subject. The statements and admissions made by Mr. Villiers are highly encouraging. The right hon. gentleman showed that he was fully aware of existing abuses, and not indisposed, so far as he was himself concerned, to the application of a remedy. A little gentle pressure and a little leisure from political cares are evidently all that are needed to secure the accomplishment of an object which commands itself alike to the approval of the philanthropist, the statesman, and the patriot jealous for his country's honour and good name.

HOW TO CURE A MAN OF RINDERPEST.—There is a story going in North Staffordshire that a farmer in the direction of Leek, who had lost some cows, was fully persuaded that he had himself been attacked by the epidemic. Forthwith he consulted his own medical man, who tried to laugh him out of the notion, but to no purpose. The farmer then went off to an old well-known practitioner, who, being a bit of a wag, and seeing how matters were entered minutely into the details of the case, expressed his concurrence with the patient's views, and told him he could cure him. He then wrote a prescription, sealed it up, and told the farmer to go to a certain druggist in the next pottery town. The farmer lost no time in going with the prescription; but was somewhat startled when the druggist showed him the formula, which ran thus:—"This man has got the cattle plague; take him into the back yard and shoot him, according to Act of Parliament." There is no need of saying that this was a "perfect cure."

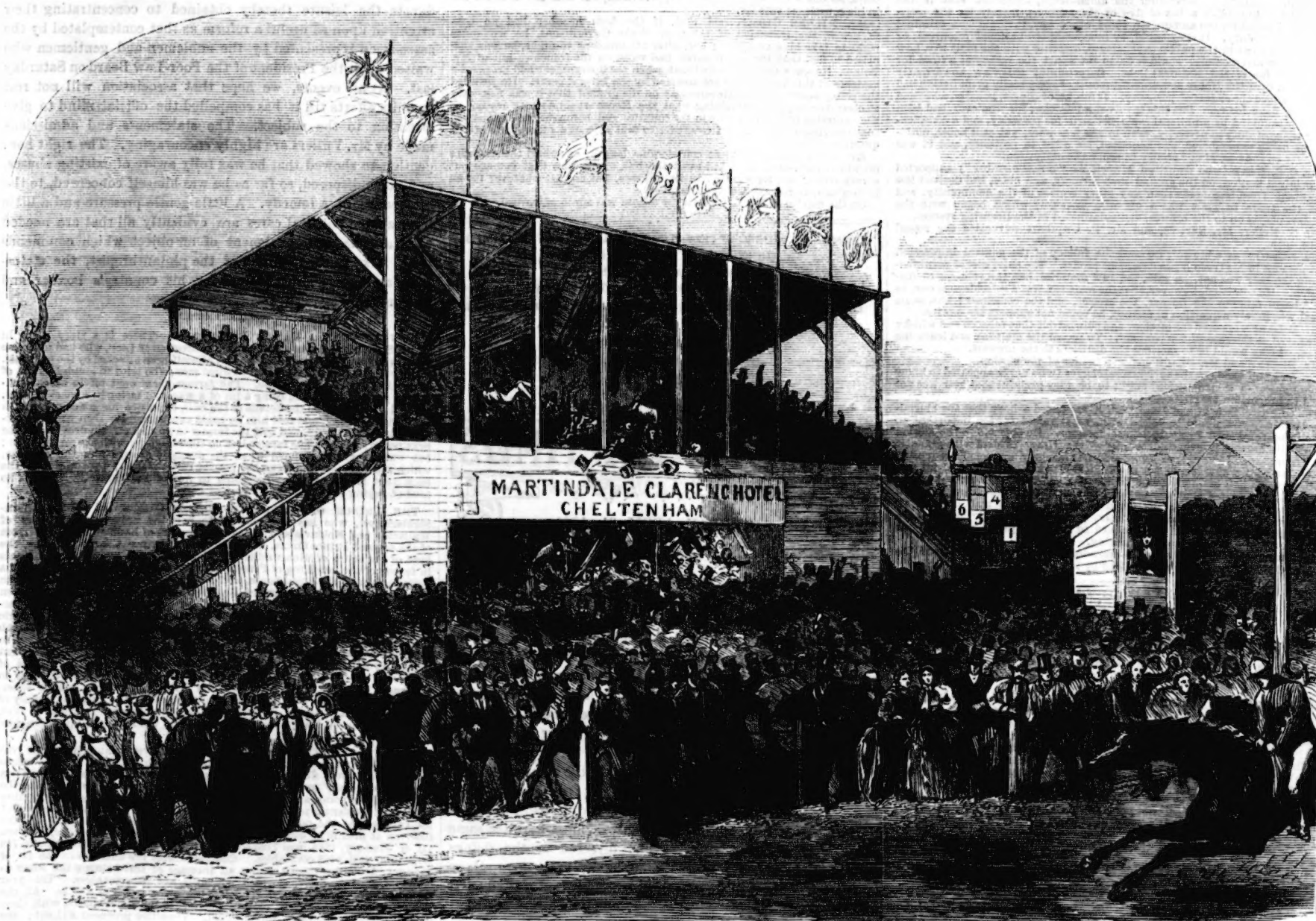
THE PRINCE OF ROUMANIA.—Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who has been elected to rule the united principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia as Prince (or Hospodar) of Roumania, in the room of the deposed Prince Couza, is second son of Prince Charles Antoine, the head of the house of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who renounced his rights in favour of the late King of Prussia in 1849, receiving the prerogatives of a prince prince of the Royal house, and who, as late as 1861, was in his own person only, raised to the rank of Royal Highness. The new ruler chosen for the Principalities is the issue of the marriage of his father to Josephine-Frédérique Louise, daughter of the late Grand Duke Charles Louis Frédéric of Baden, and is now within a few days of completing his twenty-seventh year, having been born on April 20, 1839. The baptismal names given to his Highness were Charles Eitel Frederick Zephyrin Louis. He is at present in the Prussian military service as an officer in the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons. His Highness has three brothers—Prince Leopold (the heir to the family honours), Prince Antoine, and Prince Frederick; also a sister, Princess Marie. The new Prince is connected with the reigning family of France, his aunt, Princess Frederica-Wilhelmina, having married, in 1844, Joachim Napoleon, Marquis de Polignac, grandson of the King of Naples, Joachim Murat.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.—The cost of the metropolitan police in the year 1865, including the dockyard police, amounted to £630,604. The receipts from the rates were £389,873; the rest of the expenditure was defrayed from the Parliamentary grant, from Parliamentary votes in payment for the services of the police at Government offices and public institutions, together with some incidental receipts. The expenditure included a new item of £41 with some incidental receipts. The number of the metropolitan police on the 1st of January, 1866, was 7493—viz., 36 superintendents, 217 inspectors, 798 sergeants, and 6482 constables. Compared with the numbers on the 1st of January, 1865, the return shows an increase of three among the superintendents, six inspectors, thirteen sergeants, and 280 constables. This year there are only 805 constables receiving the lowest salary of £49 8s. All the men have an allowance of coal. The cost of the police courts, with their twenty-three magistrates, was £53,051. Penalties produced £18,651; the residue of the expense was provided by Parliament. The return does not include the City police.





THE NORTHUMBERLAND, WITH THE 'CAMELS' USED TO FLOAT HER.



ACCIDENT AT THE GRAND STAND DURING THE CHELTENHAM RACES.





*W. Gladstone.*

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P., CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY WALKER AND SON, MARGARET-STREET, W.)



### LAUNCH OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND.

At length, after a fourth attempt, the Northumberland has been safely sent afloat, having remained almost to the hour and minute exactly one month on the ways from which it was first endeavoured to launch her. Almost to the moment fixed for her departure she moved on Tuesday, and when once the motion commenced it never slackened till the vessel glided into the river, and in her vast height and length seemed to span it like a floating bridge, and for a time almost completely blocked the traffic. The great mechanical effort involved in lifting and floating this vessel was one which even the most experienced shipwrights and nautical engineers looked forward to with the utmost uncertainty and anxiety. The wind was against them, and the tide was still lower for a time than on the previous day. All the preparations, however, had been made with the most precise exactitude, and the floating and pressing power employed around the ship was of itself almost enough to move her weight, even when not half waterborne by the rising tide. The whole of the cradle had been rebuilt and regreased. A flotation power of empty barrels had been lashed under the bows, and all the old and new built timber buoys, or "camels," were also employed. Four very large "camels" had been constructed specially for the purpose at Deptford Dockyard, each, roughly speaking, 50 ft. long, 25 ft. deep, and 22 ft. wide, and having a power of flotation equal to raising a weight of 300 tons—1200 tons in all. They were constructed from moulds of the ship's side, so as to fit closely under her bottom at the stern. All were, of course, both air and water tight, and were fitted with large iron sluice-doors, so that the water might be let in and allow them to drop off from the ship directly their services were no longer necessary. No less than seven hydraulic presses were used to push the cradle down, and to lift the fore part of the vessel. Three of these—one of 1000 and two of 400 tons pressure—were placed beneath the keel, so as to assist in lifting the huge hull forward and relieve the weight where it most bore upon the launching-ways. Four other hydraulic rams were fixed with iron backings, so as to thrust against the cradle and force it down the incline which led to the river. Two were of 600 tons power each and two of 400 tons, giving an aggregate of 1800 tons upward lift and 2000 tons downward pressure towards the water. The two smaller rams, however, under the fore foot of the vessel, were not much used in getting her off, and were meant simply to supply the place of the common wooden blocks generally used on these occasions. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the large wooden "camels" employed to float the vessel astern, safely fastened under the Northumberland's quarter. It was not till nearly ten o'clock on Tuesday morning that they were all perfectly secured. The draught of water of these immense buoys is only 4 ft., and as they had to be kept down at a depth of 22 ft., the difficulty of restraining their buoyancy was very great. It was eventually only accomplished by chains fixed at low water and by huge timber struts, which, fastened to the vessel's side and wedged into the shore, at last kept them in their proper positions. The floating power which these and the other smaller "camels" and lines of empty barrels gave was equal altogether to about 1600 tons. The vessel itself, when immersed at high tide, would, it was calculated, be reduced in its weight upon the ways by about 4000 tons more, so that literally no greater weight than 2000 tons would remain to be started, to effect which the hydraulic power was much more than equal. Indeed, as the tide rose on Tuesday afternoon, the general fear was that the ship would be too lively and get afloat before the state of the tide would allow of her being safely turned out into the river. The sluices in the aftermost "camels" were accordingly opened to let in the water and decrease their buoyancy; yet, in spite of these and other precautions, the vessel did, after all, go slowly, but so far suddenly that there was not sufficient time to ease off the chain cables which moored her with anchors to the ground, until the latter had been torn from their positions. As we have said, both tide and wind were unfavourable to the attempt, but before two o'clock the ship showed such unmistakable signs of yielding to the enormous powers of flotation which had been placed under her that it was unanimously decided to continue the launch. Mr. Lungle, the general manager of the Millwall Works; Mr. Luke, the Admiralty Superintendent at Deptford; and Mr. Bascombe, the Admiralty Surveyor, who have all worked day and night to get the ship off, were in favour of an immediate attempt being made; and, accordingly, all the men in the yard, the seamen riggers and marines who had been lent by Government from Deptford, were told off to their respective stations at the dogshores, the hydraulic presses, the "camels," and the moorings. Shortly after two o'clock the vessel began to lift visibly by the stern, and by half-past two she had risen 7 in. off the launching-ways, and nearly 1 in. under the cradle forward, where she is now known to have "nipped." Soon after half-past two the vessel began to move slightly, but still perceptibly, down the ways, and in the course of a few minutes had glided more than an inch and a half, and so jammed the struts which had kept her upright that it was with great difficulty they could be removed. In spite of these indications of her liveliness, however, it was determined not to give the signal for working the rams till the river was clear and all else in readiness. Such an opportunity did not occur till close on three o'clock, when the men were set to work at the hydraulic presses. There were a few minutes of intense anxiety as the gangs heaved at the pumps, and the huge crowds assembled in all directions kept cheering. Then the vessel at last seemed to move, and as she did so she drew the anchors which moored her to the earth, and their sudden appearance created rather a panic among the crowd of spectators who were standing directly in what would be their line of march if the vessel pulled them after her. Fortunately, the chain cables were let go by the rams, and as they came with a thundering rattle out of the hawseholes, the Northumberland glided slowly, but with the most perfect ease and regularity of motion, into the river. It is really almost impossible adequately to describe the enthusiasm with which her going off was greeted. There had been so many, and, we may add, such well-founded fears both of accident to the ship and those engaged in getting her afloat that it seemed as if the joy both of the workmen and spectators was almost boundless at beholding her safely afloat in the water without accident of any kind. The instant she got into the stream the tide took her up the river; and, though half a dozen powerful tugs at once grappled with her and tried to tow her down, they were for a time powerless, and it seemed as if, after all, the Northumberland would go ashore. Fortunately, the high wind, setting against the tide, assisted the efforts of the steamers; and in the course of about half an hour the ponderous hull was brought to the moorings laid down for her, and where, we may also mention, a deep hole has been dredged in the river-bed especially for her accommodation. The cradle and all the "camels" still remained under her, and the buoyancy of some of the latter, at the stern, pressed her down by the head and gave her rather an ugly sit upon the water. When these have been removed, the Northumberland will be towed into the Victoria Docks, where her engines will be fitted by Mr. Penn, and where her final equipment will be completed.

### FALL OF THE GRAND STAND AT CHELTENHAM RACES.

DURING the races at Cheltenham, on Friday, the 14th inst., the Grand Stand suddenly broke down in the centre, and the whole of the persons upon it, fully 300 in number, were buried in the debris. Great exertions were made to assist the sufferers, and when they were extricated nine gentlemen were found to be seriously injured, and a very small proportion escaped scatheless. Many limbs were broken, and contusions of every kind and severity were received. The event, of course, occasioned the greatest excitement, and no further interest was taken in the races.

The accident appears to have occurred solely through the weakness of the stand. There was no rush at the time, and the crowd was by no means greater than should have been provided for. The stand, it should be stated, was built on the ordinary plan, and was of wood. A broad flight of steps in the centre served as a means of approach to

the gallery, which was of sufficient height to allow headway for a large refreshment-stall occupying the main portion of the space beneath, and for the ticket-office and weighing-room, placed at each end. The ends of the gallery were thus, to a great extent, strengthened by the uprights of the two small rooms, and the chief strain was where the steps joined the gallery in the centre of the refreshment-stall. It was exactly at this point that the structure gave way, with scarcely a premonitory sign; and with a crash that was heard all over the course the gallery broke all across the middle, and in a second or two the refreshment-stall was filled with a confused mixture of timber and human beings heaped one upon the other. Some saved themselves by clinging to the uprights of the roof, others huddled together at the two extremities, which still held firm, and some few sprang from the parapet to the ground, or were caught in the arms of those below. The consternation caused by the accident can scarcely be described, and its scene was speedily surrounded by a dense crowd of people, many of whom had relatives and friends among the mass of men who were struggling to free themselves from their shocking position. The crowd considerably increased the difficulty of those who were really at work in freeing those unable to help themselves, and it was some time before the real extent of the casualties could be ascertained. Those badly hurt were placed upon the turf, and their injuries attended to by Mr. Jessop and Mr. Cottle, surgeons, until conveyances could be obtained for their removal. It was fortunate that at the time of the accident the refreshment-stall was deserted by all but one waitress, and she fortunately escaped. Pickpockets reaped a rich harvest in the confusion which prevailed, and amongst the sufferers by their dexterity was Mr. F. Martindale, the lessee of the refreshment-stall, who was relieved of a valuable watch and chain, and who will have consequently to add this to the heavy loss which he has sustained.

The *Sporting Life* says that the occurrence has naturally caused much dissatisfaction, and opinion appears pretty evenly balanced as to whether the race committee or the contractor was most to blame in the matter. The fact that several lawyers were upon the stand at the time of the occurrence, and that two of them are amongst those severely injured is received as a guarantee that the blame will be attached somewhere, and that it will be followed by wholesome punishment in the shape of heavy claims for compensation. It is stated that more than one person publicly declared, before the stand was used, that it was totally unfit for its purpose; while it is admitted, we believe, that the committee did not take the ordinary precaution of having the structure examined and tested by any competent person. There is certainly the one strong fact that the committee paid the contractor (Mr. Eassie) the sum he required for the work without beating him down in price; but even this does not relieve them of a large share of the moral responsibility, however they may be placed legally.

### MR. GLADSTONE.

THE career of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is so well known to the public, and must be so familiar to our readers from previous notices in these columns, that it is quite unnecessary to go over it again in connection with the Portrait which we this week publish of the right honourable gentleman. Mr. Gladstone has this Session had to appear in a new character in the House of Commons—as the leader, that is, of its deliberations. This is a position calculated to tax the capacities of men of even the highest powers. When, on the death of Lord Palmerston, it became inevitable that the duties of leader of the House must devolve on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, serious misgivings were felt as to his fitness for the task. There was, of course, no question as to his ability; but it was more than doubted whether he possessed the discretion, tact, and command of temper necessary for the position. So far as yet appears, however, Mr. Gladstone has been fully equal to the occasion, and has proved that pre-eminent ability may be combined with prudence and judgment when weighted with the needful degree and sense of responsibility—a result which must be gratifying to all classes of the community and to all members of the House, whether supporters or opponents of the right hon. gentleman; for all have a share in the credit of Parliament, and an interest in having its deliberations conducted with dignity and wisdom.

**PEERAGE OF IRELAND.**—There are 189 peers of Ireland:—1 duke, 12 marquises, 66 earls (including the King of Hanover as Earl of Arundel), 40 viscounts, and 70 barons. Of the whole number 74 have seats in the House of Lords by virtue of peerages of England, Great Britain, or the United Kingdom, and 115 are peers of Ireland only; 18 of the peers of Ireland are creations since the Union. There have also been, since the Union, 43 promotions in the Peerage of Ireland; 16 barons have been made viscounts, 19 viscounts or barons have been made earls, and 8 earls have been made marquises.

**LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM.**—On Tuesday evening the fifty-third anniversary festival of this institution took place at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street—the Duke of Wellington presiding. Amongst the company present were many gentlemen well known in the city of London for their advocacy of charitable objects, and more especially of the excellent institution whose interests were now to be advanced. The noble chairman's speech was received with great enthusiasm, and the result of the evening's festivities was that a subscription-list was read, amounting in all to about £4500, £1900 of which was contributed by members of the Stock Exchange.

**RAILWAY AMALGAMATION.**—The boards of the South-Eastern and of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies met on Tuesday, and approved the heads of an agreement for a united system of working and developing the traffic of the two lines, with the view of furthering the mutual interests of the two undertakings and extending the facilities of both systems to the public. It was arranged that application should be made to Parliament for powers to effect a fusion of interests, on the principle of the North-Eastern agreement—that is, by a division of the total net profits earned, in proportions to be determined; the existing capitals of the two companies remaining distinct, but a joint capital to be created for general purposes; the whole arrangement to be subject to the approval of the shareholders of both companies.

**THE 27 OCCUPIERS.**—A return has been compiled by the assessor of Edinburgh relating to the male occupiers on the valuation rolls of that Parliamentary burgh whose real rents are £7 or upwards, but under £10. It is a census of the persons proposed to be now intrusted with the franchise. Their number in Edinburgh amounts to 3621. They are nearly all working men; 589, however, are distinguished as "masters and others"—small masters, 143 persons of no occupation, 98 shopmen, 82 clerks, 15 soldiers, and the like. The other 3032 are returned as working men earning weekly wages. There are among them 111 cabmen and coachmen, 33 carters, 12 ostlers, 155 general labourers (attached to no particular trade), 53 policemen, 128 porters and messengers, 85 railway servants, 97 waiters and servants. The list comprises working men belonging to almost every trade—bakers, butchers, shoemakers, tailors, and the like. There are 107 engineers, 23 engravers, 186 printers, and 24 watchmakers.

**THE AUSTRIAN AND PRUSSIAN ARMIES.**—The following is a comparative statement of the Austrian and Prussian armies when raised to their full war strength:—The Austrian army upon a full war footing (excluding the men not required for absolute service in the field, who number 34,000) amounts to 579,000 men, consisting of 431,000 infantry, 57,000 artillery, 106,000 extra corps, drivers, sanitary aids, ambulance and field-hospital men, &c., and 42,000 cavalry. Deducting from the infantry and the jägers, the four battalions and depot strength (109,800 men), who remain in the country under recruiting districts, the number of the available foot soldiers amounts to 321,000. Making a similar deduction from the artillery, the extra corps and the cavalry, the two former could take the field with 77,000 and the latter with 35,700 men, amounting altogether to 112,700. The Prussian army, upon a war footing, includes all descriptions of infantry, with the reserve regiment of guards, eight reserve regiments, thirty-six substitute battalions and companies (173,600 men); first class of Landwehr (116,000 men), second class of Landwehr (98,800 men); artillery, extra corps and train, with reserve and Landwehr detachments (105,450 men); guards and Line cavalry, with fifty-five substitute squadrons (87,000 men); first class Landwehr (28,000 men), second class Landwehr (12,500 men), together 78,500; in all, therefore, a force of 569,150 men. Calculating that on account of the strength of Austria, Prussia would be compelled to incorporate at once the first class of the Landwehr (144,800 infantry and cavalry), originally intended for garrisons and as reserve, there would have to be deducted from the above Prussian total as follows:—83,010 men for infantry depot, 10,000 for those of cavalry, and 105,300 for second class of Landwehr; together 198,310 men, who would have to be employed to garrison the principal towns, the thirty fortresses, including Stettin, Cologne and Deutz, Danzig, Magdeburg, Posen, Coblenz, and Ehrenbreitstein, Königsberg, and would be stationed as dépôts in the recruiting districts. The available Russian army would therefore amount to 367,840 men.

### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

VISCOUNTS PALMERSTON has been very unwell, but is now progressing towards recovery.

UPWARDS of £15,000 has been subscribed towards the erection of a Roman Catholic cathedral in the metropolis.

THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU has removed the import duty from rice, tallow, butter, cheese, and breadstuffs.

THE BISHOP OF MELBOURNE has prohibited the singing of hymns and the use of organs, as in the English churches.

MR. HENRY HOARE, banker, who met with an accident on the Great Eastern Railway, in March, 1865, from the effects of which he never altogether recovered, died on Monday morning.

ABOUT FIFTY SWALLOWS made their appearance at Woodlands, in the New Forest, on Sunday last.

LORD CLARENCE PAGET having announced his intention to resign his seat for the boroughs of Sandwich, Deal, and Walmer, preparations are being made for an election. Mr. Brassey has already issued an address; Mr. Capper is in the field in the Conservative interest; and Lord Amberley has also been spoken of as a candidate.

A LARGE NUMBER OF SPARROWS are about to be sent from Vienna to the Acclimatization Society of Melbourne, in Australia, for propagation in the colony, in order to destroy the caterpillars, which commit great ravages in that country.

AMERICAN PAPERS give a return showing the arrival of immigrants from Europe at the port of New York in the first quarter of the present year; the numbers are 31,673. In the first quarter of 1865 there were only 18,936.

HERR FRANZ ABT will arrive in London early in May.

MR. DARWIN is preparing "Domesticated Animals and Cultivated Plants: on the Principles of Variation, Inheritance, Reversion, Crossing, Interbreeding, and Selection under Domestication." The work will be published by Mr. Murray.

SO ADVANCED IS THE SEASON on the shores of Mount's Bay, that gooseberries of very fair size may be procured near Penzance—at the fancy price, however, of 5s. per quart.

GARIBALDI, the Italian journals state, has been made a grandfather, the wife of his son having given birth to a daughter, who has received the name of Annita.

NEARLY 300 CONVICTS were shipped last week from Portland for Western Australia. Roupell was one of them; but, for some reason or other, he was released and was not sent off.

MR. EDWARD JAMES, the member for Manchester, has addressed a letter to the chairman of his committee apprising him of his intention to vote for the second reading of the Reform Bill, but reserving to himself the right of opposing it in its further stages.

THE BAND OF THE ROYAL HORSE GUARDS played on the East Terrace of Windsor Castle, by command of her Majesty, on Sunday last. The terrace was crowded by promenaders. The band will play on the terrace for the future during the Queen's absence from Windsor.

AT A GRAND DINNER given at Vefour's by the homoeopathic doctors of Paris it was announced that a universal congress of all the followers of Hahnemann will take place in 1867, and that all works bearing on his system of therapeutics will be exhibited at the Grande Exposition in the Champ de Mars.

A RUMOUR circulating in St. Petersburg says "that the project of marrying the Czarowitch to the Princess Dagmar of Denmark has now been abandoned. The young Prince is said to have conceived a violent attachment for the young Princess Mieczyslava, the daughter of the celebrated Russian poet-priest Elias."

THE DEATH OF ONE MRS. FORBES, of Ashfield, Massachusetts, at the age of 103, is recorded in the American papers, which state that she lived to see her descendants to the fifth generation. Her father died at the age of ninety, and her mother died in her hundredth year. Among her ten brothers and sisters but one died under eighty years, the other reaching ninety and upwards.

AT THE NEWINGTON SPECIAL SESSIONS last week 66 tradesmen were fined for having in their possession unjust weights, scales, and measures. The list comprised 16 beer retailers, 14 butchers, 12 bakers and confectioners, 9 chandlers, 1 grocer, 9 greengrocers and coaldealers, 3 oilmen, 1 marine storedealer, 1 cheese-monger, and 1 cider-seller. The fines amounted to over £88.

UPWARDS of twenty American ships are now to be seen at one time in the port of Havre. During the American revolution not above four or five were to be seen there. No port suffered more from the rebellion of the Southern Confederation than Havre. Before the rebellion upwards of sixty American ships were often in that port together.

THE LOUVRE has just received from the Duke de Luyne the donation of a bas-relief on black marble representing a Mosaic warrior armed with his lance. This piece of sculpture, which is the only specimen of Mosaic art known in the museums of France, was discovered in Palestine by M. de Sanly, on his first expedition, but was brought away by the Duke during his late scientific excursion around the Dead Sea.

THE LOSSES THROUGH THE CATTLE PLAGUE have been so heavy in Cheshire that the justices for that county have found it necessary to take advantage of the borrowing clause of the Cattle Diseases Act. They decided, at a general Court of Quarter Sessions on Monday, to borrow a sum not exceeding £300,000, to meet the claims for compensation—a charge which the chairman estimated would amount to £350,000 by the 15th inst.

MR. WILLIAM JACKSON, the composer of "The Deliverance of Israel," "The Year," and other musical works of considerable merit, died at Bradford on Sunday, at the age of fifty. He was a native of Masham, in the Valley of the Yore, in the north-west corner of Yorkshire, and had for fifteen or sixteen years been settled at Bradford as a professor of music. His early life and genius as a self-taught musician form the subject of an interesting memoir in Mr. Smiles's "Self Help."

A DUEL IN PRESBURG has created a great sensation. It seems that Prince Lechnowsky and his friends rose from a table when Count Nemes seated himself. The latter felt it as a personal insult, challenged the Prince, and a duel took place with pistols at twenty paces. The Count received his adversary's bullet in the shoulder, which was completely smashed, and the ball traversed the throat, wounding the windpipe. It was reported that the Count had died; but he still lives, though only faint hopes are entertained of his recovery.

A CURIOUS GEOLOGICAL FACT is noticed in the Isle of Wight, consisting of a layer of pebbles, each about the size and colour of a horsebean, which has been gradually moving eastward along the south-western shore of the island. The layer has now reached Ventnor. A few years since no such pebbles were to be found on that coast. They probably originated on the coast of Dorset. They are like all gravel, broken and water-worn flints. The layer has probably been formed under the sea, and driven by some unusual disturbance from the Dorset shores, past the Hampshire coast, on to the Isle of Wight beach.

"SMALL BY DEGREES AND BEAUTIFULLY LESS."—A dividend (which it is to be presumed may be taken as a final one) of 1-19th of 1d. has just been declared in the Bristol District Court of Bankruptcy in the estate of S. Cox, manufacturer of chemicals, of Netham, near Bristol. The bankruptcy took place under the Consolidation Act of 1849, and there have been three previous dividends of 8d., 1d., and 1-8th of 1d. The sum now divided was £2 1s. between creditors whose debts amounted to about £45,000.

THE SCHOOLMASTER ABROAD.—A west country gentleman, not distinguished for brains, took it into what did duty for his head that he must have a library, so he went out, bought a whole room full of books, and told the bookseller to get them "done up fit, you know, and that sort of thing." "Certainly, Sir," said the well-paid tradesman, adding "I suppose you will have them bound in Russia?" "In Russia? not a bit of it—not worth the trouble; you get them bound in Ruxter, and that will be quite as good, and nearer home."

THE NEW BISHOP OF LIMERICK.—The Very Rev. Dr. Charles Graves, who has been nominated to the bishopric of Limerick in the room of Dr. Henry Griffin, deceased, was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took high honours. In due course he became a fellow, and at the present time holds one of the senior fellowships of the college. He has also been some years Dean of the Chapel Royal in Ireland. Chaplain to the Household, and First Chaplain to the Lord Lieutenant. The diocese of Limerick, over which he will have episcopal jurisdiction, is worth (net) £5961 a year. Its area is 506,322 acres; population, 173,622; benefices, fifty-six; perpetual curies, five; net income of clergy, £12,228; livings in patronage of the Crown, seven; of the Bishop, twenty-four; Incumbents of benefices, thirteen; lay patrons, seventeen, the principal of whom are the Earl of Devon, the Earl of Dunraven, the Earl of Cork, Lord Leconfield, Lord Muskerry, the Earl of Limerick, Sir M. Blackiston, Sir W. Barrington, and the Crown for Lord Southwell, the Earl of Kenmare, the Earls of Buckinghamshire and Ranfurly, and Major William Maunsell.

SUPPOSED FOUNDERING OF THE NERBUDDA.—Another large new iron screw-steamer, the Nerbudda, 1357 tons register, commanded by Captain Hardy, belonging to the Bombay and Bengal Steam Shipping Company, is believed to have foundered. She was considered a first-class steam-ship, having been built under special survey of Lloyd's surveyors. She sailed from Liverpool for Bombay on Nov. 18 last, with a crew of about fifty hands. The New York packet-ship Albion, which arrived at Liverpool on Nov. 21, reported having signalled her on the 19th in lat. 50 N., long. 9 W. She was then apparently in distress, being under canvas only, but the weather was too heavy for the Albion to bear down for her. As time wore on the premium to effect insurances on her gradually increased, until at last it stood at eighty-five guinees net per cent. This was upwards of a month since, and since then the underwriters have settled their loss under full belief that the unfortunate steamer had foundered, and will never be heard of. It is reported that insurances were effected on her and her cargo to the extent of £80,000.



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WHEN the Enfranchisement of the People Bill will get through its second reading cannot, whilst I am writing, be foretold. It may, however, get over the bar before your readers get their papers, though I hardly think it will. Remember that the question to be decided first is not the second reading, but Earl Grosvenor's amendment—viz., to leave out all the words after "that," in order to insert the words, in short, "that it is inexpedient to discuss an enfranchisement bill until the House has before it the scheme for the redistribution of the seats." The question to be first put, then, is, "that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question." If the House decide "ay," as it most likely will, to this, there is an end of Earl Grosvenor's amendment, and then Mr. Speaker will put again the question "that the bill be now read a second time." Whereupon the debate may be renewed, and perhaps will be, and be spun out for another week. All the members who have yet spoken have spoken, technically, on the amendment; but really most of them have discussed the bill. And we have had this anomaly, whilst they professed to speak to prove that it was inexpedient to discuss the bill, they really, almost to a man, proceeded at once to discuss it—the only prominent exceptions being Earl Grosvenor, Lord Stanley, and Mr. John Stuart Mill.

There was a meeting lately of Earl Derby's followers, and the result of that meeting is that the noble Lord is to let the Oaths Bill pass through the House of Lords. He does not, though, yield to argument, he tells us, but to force; not to the force of the House of Lords—for that he holds in his pocket—but to the force of the Lower House. The House of Commons has determined to have this bill, and Lord Derby, wisely, wishes to steer clear of all unseemly collision between the two Houses. This power of the noble Earl is a curious affair. On all great political questions he is really the House. He holds so many proxies, and his influence over those Conservative peers whose proxies he does not hold is so great, that his will is law. Surely, this is hardly within the spirit of the English Constitution. How infinitely small is all the babble about the danger of giving votes to some 200,000 artisans, scattered all over the country, lest they should send men to legislate exclusively in favour of their class, when here is one man who, by his own mere motion, can stop any measure that he disapproves! The working classes must not have a single representative; but the Earl of Derby has a whole branch of the Legislature under his control.

I have usually the pleasure of agreeing with *Fun*, but I don't agree with him this week about Mrs. Yelverton Longworth's Readings; at least, I think he should have said more. He insists that it was in bad taste, and so it was, for the audience to applaud the "personal" passages in "Locksley Hall" and "Lady Clara Vere de Vere." Very true; but it was in worse taste for the lady to select poems which an audience could treat in this vulgar manner. If this unfortunate lady would resolutely break with her past—call herself, say, Mrs. Yelverton-Longworth (it is an insult to call her *Mrs.*, whoever does it)—she would find that sympathy, and, perhaps, help, would not be far off. As to passages from "Hiawatha," I would recommend her to take the "Wrestling of Mondamin." That can be made dramatically interesting to the dullest listener. Surely, too, it must be a bad reader that cannot compel thrilled attention to the

Onaway, awake, beloved!

of Chibiabos. And even children will listen, delighted, to the boat-building,

Give me of your bark, O birch-tree!

In a word, I think the poem highly dramatic in itself.

## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

## THE LEADING REVIEWS.

The *Fortnightly Review* for the first half of April is a good number. Mr. Herman Merivale on "The Architecture of London in Relation to Climate," is very entertaining; and so are the "Caneries," by the editor. How astonished a thousand readers will be to learn that *combat à l'outrance* and *toujours perdrix* are wrong! Mr. Lewis was, I believe, the first man of letters who attempted to clear away some of the cloud from the name and system of Spinoza; and he continues the work in the first article of the number, which contains some very pleasant personal reminiscences besides. But how will Mr. Greaves, who has just got a book out (I see), like that little anecdote about him? As to Liebnitz having borrowed his "Pre-Established Harmony" from Spinoza, I can say nothing of the evidence, because I never saw it (admire my candour!), but the question occurs why should he borrow it? Mr. Mill, in criticising Sir William Hamilton, insists that the pre-established harmony was a necessary part of a system founded on the "Sufficient Reason." Was that plagiarised too? I am writing far away from books (law books and the like excepted), but the passage I refer to in Mr. Mill's last work is somewhere within the last half dozen pages; the paragraph in which he says Sir William was unable to enter dramatically into any other man's philosophy. This is followed by an expression of regret that Sir William did not write a history of metaphysical speculation, upon which a writer in *Blackwood* happily observed that, if the man really lacked this dramatic power, it is a good job he did not write such a history. The political and other matter of the *Fortnightly Review* are very good indeed. A direction to the printer with regard to Mr. Peter Bayne's article on "Strauss," in the previous number, gives me an excuse for saying that I fear I underrated the merits of that paper, though I very much differ from it in the purely critical passages. In one place, where Mr. Bayne sees undoubted history, I cannot help seeing undoubted poetry. I ought not to dismiss this number of the *Fortnightly Review* without calling attention to Mr. Wilkins's vivid and energetic continuation of his discussion, "Were the Ancient Britons Savages?" I may also add that in the "Caneries," by the editor, there are some admirable remarks upon anonymous criticism; and that the paper on Spinoza contains matter which will be new even to tolerably well-informed readers. Everywhere a fine moral insight is apparent; for example, in the passages in which Spinoza's superiority to the temptations even of vanity is referred to.

The April number of the *British Quarterly* is much lighter than the previous number. "Anglicanism and Romanism" is the most comprehensive summary of the Newman-Pusey-Manning discussions which we have yet had. "Præd and his Works" is a little unguarded at times, but is full of true critical appreciation. In substance I agree with the writer from beginning to end, particularly with the distinction which he draws between the lyric proper and the mere literary maker of lyrics. "Club Life and Society in London" is very good; and so is "The Reformed Church of France," which, however, reads in passages like a translation. The Railway article is excellent; it is evidently written by a person who has railway leanings, but they are most ingeniously disguised. The summary of Current Literature is good. I am glad to find a writer in the review has the courage and sense to call Wordsworth's "Too bright and good for human nature's daily food" an "uncomfortable line." It is almost worse than uncomfortable.

The *Christian Spectator* is a sixpenny monthly of which many of your readers, Mr. Editor, may be supposed to know nothing. It is, however, a very old friend of some of us, and one of the very best magazines going. It is less straitlaced (to use a rough-and-ready phrase) than any of the other "religious" periodicals, and its writing may always be depended upon, both for good taste and scholarship. I have not room for detailed criticism, but the April number is very pleasant reading, and yet solid and instructive.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The new spectacular melodrama, "Theodora," at the SURREY, is the work of Mr. Watts Phillips. The action of the piece occupies five acts; the plot is simple in the extreme, and would appear to have been founded on this passage from Gibbon:—"In the most abject state of her fortune and reputation, some vision, either of sleep or fancy, had whispered to Theodora the pleasing assurance that she was destined to become the spouse of a potent monarch."

"Theodora" is a splendid spectacle. The scenery and the costumes blaze with gold, and many are the marchings, counter-marchings, processions over bridges and platforms, groupings and tableaux—indeed, during the performance the stage looks like an illuminated misal; but I fear that the piece itself will not be considered interesting by her Majesty's lieges on the Surrey side of the water. The period is too remote; the sixth century is so very long ago, and there is so little sympathy between the British of 1886 and the Byzantines of 541. Events which occurred in that distant past may be fit for highly poetical treatment in a book; but on the stage a subject with which we can have some feeling in common is more likely to be attractive. People nowadays do not care much about the political troubles that arose during the Heptarchy. All the world are not antiquarians; and the British Museum is one thing, and a transport theatre is another. Miss Avonia Jones, who plays Theodora, is entitled to commendation for some very forcible, vigorous acting; and Miss Georgiana Pannecourt, Mr. James Fernandez, and Mr. James Bennett played the other principal characters with feeling and spirit. The name of the scenic artist, Mr. Gates, must not be forgotten, as he deserves most honourable mention.

A new opera-bouffe, the music by the famous Offenbach, was produced at the ADELPHI on Monday last. The playbills do not tell us the name of the librettist; and, indeed, it is easily imagined that the man who could so disfigure a lively operetta and write such rhymes should dislike to have his name attached to his performance. The music is very sprightly and Offenbachy, and was loudly applauded. A duet between Miss Teresa Furtado and Mr. Toole was encored, as was also a song and dance by Miss Furtado. The title of the original piece is "Jeanne qui pleure et Jean qui rit." The title of the Adelphi translation is "Crying Jenny and Laughing Johnny." The dramatic persons are represented by Miss Woolgar, who acts both Jenny and Johnny; Mr. Eburne and the before-mentioned Mr. Toole, and Miss Furtado. The Adelphi company is unaccustomed to comic opera, yet, notwithstanding, Mr. Toole officiated as baritone and Mr. Eburne as tenor very creditably. Miss Woolgar was admirable both as the fearful Jenny and the scapegrace Johnny; indeed, what is there that Miss Woolgar does not do admirably, and why do they not get her to paint the scenery at the Adelphi? Miss Teresa Furtado made her reappearance with great effect. Her youth, personal beauty, and grace, are charming settings to her very considerable talent. She has, too, in addition to these desirable qualifications, that untranslatable charm which the French call "*chic*." It is not likely that opera-bouffes will ever be naturalised to the Adelphi stage, which was and should be the home of domestic drama. Still, notwithstanding the baldness and wretchedness of the verbal translation, "Crying Jenny and Laughing Johnny" will be found an agreeable entertainment to those who relish a light French dramatic dish, and who are not entirely devoted to heavy—very heavy—British fare.

Mr. Jefferson and Mrs. Billington are winning golden opinions, as well as other golden articles, at Manchester as Rip Van Winkle and Gretchen.

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY.—Monday next, the 23rd inst., is the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday. The banquet which, under the will of the late Mr. T. F. Cooke, is provided at the Dramatic College at Maybury, "at which the master, wardens, and members of the council shall preside, and to which the whole of the pensioners and any supporters and patrons of the drama and well-wishers of the college shall be invited," will have Mr. Webster for its president and Mr. Creswick for its vice-president. Special dinners in honour of the occasion will also be held at various social and literary clubs.

THE ROYAL CHARTER STEAM-SHIP.—This splendid steam-clipper was wrecked on the 26th of October, 1859—above six years ago—in Meelfa Bay, on the north coast of Anglesea, when about 380 persons lost their lives, and, although her treasures are constantly fished for, the wealth sunk with the hull seems to be inexhaustible. During the late spring tides 140 sovereigns were extracted from the wreck, and it is credibly reported that as the divers are enabled to get at the part of the vessel still under the sand thousands of pounds are yet to be recovered. The gold coins are as bright as if they had been newly coined. In the summer months visitors from all parts of the British Isles, Australia and other countries seek this secluded spot to witness the scene of the terrible disaster. The rock, or rather the stone (now almost demolished in mementoes), to which John Rogers fastened the hawser seems to command peculiar interest.

THEATRICAL LICENSES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE.—A Select Government Committee met for the third time on Tuesday to take evidence on the existing state of the law affecting theatres and other public entertainments. The Right Hon. G. J. Goschen occupied the chair, and the witnesses examined were Sir R. Mayne, the Hon. Mr. Norton, and Mr. Strange, of the Albemarle. The Committee had got themselves into a difficulty through taking hearsay evidence from Mr. Pownall at a former sitting, and some time was wasted in proving the groundlessness of certain statements made by that witness. Sir R. Mayne's evidence was liberal and sensible. He is in favour of a broad system of licensing, with power to check indecency, and thinks that the drama would elevate music-halls and their audiences, that few faults can be found with any of our present public amusements, and that it is good that people of all classes, and of all morals and habits, should be amused. The Hon. Mr. Norton is in favour of the Lord Chamberlain's regulations forbidding drinking and smoking in the auditorium, and an extension of dramatic licenses to the so-called music-halls. This witness, when pressed by Mr. Locke, M.P., was unable to say what greater harm there was in taking refreshment at a theatre, comfortably at a table, than uncomfortably from a potboy or an orangewoman in the pit, and was wholly unable to define what is and what is not the "legitimate drama." Mr. Strange's evidence was confined to the chief features of his own property, the Albemarle. He stated that it represents a capital of £100,000, employs about 320 persons of both sexes, pays in wages from £430 to £450 a week, has increased the wages of ballet girls at least twenty per cent, and attracts about 3000 visitors every night, who pay an average admission-fee of one shilling, and expend about sixpence in drink, eatables, and cigars. He further stated that the attendance of loose women was not encouraged, that it never exceeded three per cent of the visitors, that there were no private rooms (disposing of a groundless statement made by Mr. Pownall), and only one private box, that large numbers of the working classes patronised the entertainment, that he worked under four licenses, had fourteen constables besides the police to preserve order, and should save £3000 a year in working expenses if only allowed to represent light comic operas in place of giving operatic selections.

THE LATE COLONEL HASSARD.—The last news from the front tells us of another victory gained by the Imperial and colonial forces over the rebels, purchased, alas! too dearly, by the loss of a gallant and distinguished officer, who was mortally wounded on the occasion—Lieutenant-Colonel Jason Hassard, of the 57th Regiment. On the 3rd of October, 1884, the lamented gentleman obtained a commission, and shortly afterwards he was gazetted to an ensigncy in the 57th, the "West Middlesex" Regiment of Foot. In this fine regiment, known as the "Albion," "Die hard," the late Colonel Hassard gradually rose. On the 18th of May, 1883, he obtained his lieutenantcy, and on the 16th of June, 1884, he was gazetted as a captain. The regiment was then quartered at Corfu, and in 1884 received orders to embark for the Crimea. During the Russian War they were hotly engaged, and Captain Hassard was present at most of the glorious events in that gigantic struggle between the most powerful nations in Europe. With the storming columns at the assaults on the Redan, on the 18th of June and the 8th of September, he greatly distinguished himself; and again, during the expedition to Kinburn, he was gallantly mentioned in despatches; and, as a reward of his gallantry, received the Sardinian, Turkish, and Crimean medals, and, as the fifth class of the Medjidie, and Major's brevet. At the termination of hostilities the regiment proceeded to Malta, and thence in 1858 to Bombay. During the first year of the service of his regiment in India Major Hassard was with the depot in Cork; but in the early part of 1860 he arrived in Poonah in charge of recruits forwarded from Cork to the head-quarters of the regiment. At the end of the year the 57th embarked for New Zealand, where they have remained ever since. Major Hassard did not accompany the regiment, but followed it shortly after, and since his arrival in this country he has been actively engaged in quelling the rebellion. The latter years of his service have been no life of ease. He served with his regiment during the war of 1861; again, in 1863, his name was favourably mentioned, and more lately in General Cameron's campaign he was heard of. In September last he was gazetted as Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel; but he has not lived long to enjoy his promotion, for, on Saturday last, he fell mortally wounded while gallantly leading his men to the assault of Otapawa. Within the palisades of this formidable pah he was hit in the lungs and chest, and thus ended his life, for twenty-one years of which he had served his country with distinction. He lived and died a soldier, and his name as a kindly gentleman and a gallant officer will long be remembered by the gallant "Die hard" with whom he had served so long. Colonel Hassard leaves a widow and a number of friends to mourn their irreparable loss; but it must be a satisfaction in their bereavement to know that he died in harness, leading on his men, his deathbed their arms, and his requiem their shouts of victory.—Wellington (New Zealand) Independent.

## FINE ARTS.

## THE EXHIBITION OF NATIONAL PORTRAITS.

A YEAR has nearly elapsed since Lord Derby proposed that a loan collection of national portraits should be got together for exhibition. The suggestion was an excellent one, and promised to be of great value to English history. Unfortunately, however, the shade of South Kensington was allowed to fall on the project, and, what might in wise hands have been a gallery of authentic and rare portraits of British worthies, is, like everything else that falls under the baneful influence of "The Boilers," a delusion and a sham. The same absurd rule which made the Miniature Exhibition a cumbersome and valueless *omnium gatherum* has been extended to the present collection, and "it has not been thought right towards those who have graciously lent their portraits to presume to make any alterations" in cases where the pictures do not represent the personages to whom they are attributed. To put it plainly, a snobbish fear of giving offence by either declining the loan or altering the title allows the authority of a national exhibition and the weight of the Committee of the Council of Education to be lent to the confirmation of error and the perpetuation of folly. There is nothing on earth to prevent the Wardour-street portraits of Mr. Novus Homo from thus acquiring authenticity as "having been exhibited by the Council of Art and Education!"

To the student of history who does not happen to possess the power of discrimination which only years of experience and earnest application could confer on him, the present exhibition is utterly worthless, for the catalogue treats all alike as authentic, and he may accept at any moment a wrong impersonation. A national collection of portraits, like Caesar's wife, should not be even suspected. What are we to say when it openly avows and defends its shame? What can we say but that the managers of it have sacrificed the national credit to their own personal nervousness to offend A or B?

It may be, perhaps, on account of this view of their duties—from the fact that they look on their official position as a means for "doing the civil" to grandees with portrait-galleries—that the walls are overloaded with replicas, inferior copies, and copies of inferior copies, *ad nauseam*. Where more than a single portrait of any worthy existed, and there were striking differences between them—which anyone who has seen six portraits of the Poet Laureate will admit to be quite possible, even with authentic likenesses—they should have been admitted and hung together, not scattered at random. But where it was evident that one picture was but a repetition of another it should have been declined, though it had been offered by the Earl of Derby himself, who has, by-the-way, been most generous in his loans of ancestral pictures. We have nearly all the Stanleys on the walls.

Had this system of exclusion been adopted without favour or fear of personal consequences, the number of portraits would have been considerably lessened. And this would have been an advantage. It should be remembered that the collection is intended to be a popular one, and is under the management of the Council of Education. The scholar and antiquary may derive benefit from it, but it is not for them that it was specially designed. It was meant for the public, and anyone who knows anything of the art-tendencies of the public and the effect of art-exhibitions, will know that there is no more fatal error than that of making a collection so large as to be wearisome; and if the collection be one of portraits, from mere monotony the weariness arises sooner, while the recollections of the worthies will be, from their sheer numbers, hopelessly vague and confused. Memory will retain Elizabeth's nose, but will attach to it Oliver Cromwell's mouth and chin, the eyes of Henry IV., and the curls of Charles II. So much for the system and practice adopted in the Exhibition. We will now take a glance round the gallery, and briefly notice a few of the most remarkable pictures on the walls.

We may mention in passing that the catalogue is full of blunders, including errors in orthography. Of course we credit the printer (typographers have broad shoulders) with a fair share of these mistakes; but surely the Council of Education should revise its proofs with decent care, and keep a keen eye on its Latin. It is, perhaps, hypercritical to point out—except that it is a slight indication of the want of system which marks all the doings at South Kensington—that even the titling of the pictures is a bungle. The name of the subject of the work is usually correct; that of the person who lends it invariably; but in the place where the artist's name should be given we are treated with a charming variety. Occasionally it is inserted; sometimes there is a blank; at other times we are supplied with the valuable information that the picture is by "PAINTER."

The majority of portraits in the first department—the Plantagenet reigns—may be fairly taken to be of doubtful authenticity. The best that can be said for some is that they were painted at a subsequent period from effigies on tombs or from illuminated MSS. A portrait of Bolingbroke (10) is one of the earliest of the authentic works. But "Fair Rosamond" (1), "Black Douglas" (12), "Wallace" (2), and "John of Gannet" (8), should have a passing glance. "Richard II." (7) may be taken as contemporary work; "Chancer" (8) is probably an enlargement. "Jane Shore" (34), the Eton portrait, will be likely to arrest the eye, if only from the fact that she is so *décolletée* ("undraped" in the catalogue) that she might pass as dressed in the height of the present fashion. "Warwick, the King-maker" (23), and "Talbot, the Achilles of England" (19), should be noted.

With "Hans Holbein" (73), in the reign of Henry VIII., we come upon the most flourishing days of English portraiture. Nothing in the way of portraiture has ever surpassed the work of the "man from Augsburg." Three hundred years have passed, and he holds the throne undisputed. For vigorous reality the only style of portraiture that can at all compare with it is the minute, lifelike painting of Mr. Sandys.

All Holbein's pictures should be searched for, if we may apply the word with reference to paintings which will arrest attention at once wherever placed.

With the reign of Elizabeth begins the reign of Zuchero, whose elaborate imagery and flattering fancies doubtless did more than his skill to make him a favourite of the Queen. From this time to the reign of James II.—with which the exhibition concludes—the worthies come in galaxies from which it is difficult to choose our bright particular stars. We meet with Dr. John Bull, the composer of our National Anthem, and the godfather of our race, with Sir Jonathan Trelawney, Sir Christopher Hatton; Dudley, Earl of Leicester; Burghley, Jewel, the noble Sir Walter Raleigh, the accomplished and gallant Sidney, the unfortunate Mary of Scotland, Rizzio, Darnley, and Bonnie Mary Beaton. Here, too, we come upon Shakespeare, Jonson, Spenser, Barbauld, and Drayton; on Dr. Dee and Sir Francis Drake, of whom the former had all the quack. James I.'s reign brings us to Arabella Stuart, Elizabeth of Bohemia, Anne of Denmark, Lord Montague, George Villiers, Hobson of "Hobson's choice" fame, Fletcher, Coke, Drummond of Hawthornden, Camden, Car and his Countess, and Gondomar. In Charles I.'s reign we note a curious picture of the murdered Buckingham, Vandyck, Waller, and his Sacharissa, Graham of Montrose, Falkland, Vane, the fiery Rupert, and the learned Noy. Here break in the Puritan worthies—Pym, Hampden, and the long array of stout-hearted men who established the Protectorate, which bristles (the expression suits the theme) with portraits of famous generals and statesmen. With Charles II.'s reign our chief interest centres in the portraits of the fair frailties that adorned the Merry Monarchy. The gloomy period of James II. winds up the collection with some notable portraits, not the least interesting being those of James Duke of Monmouth and the infamous Jeffreys.

This is but a hasty summary of the collection. To go through it in detail would require more space than we have at our disposal; to criticise the paintings as works of art would be out of place and useless. The exhibition is a collection of portraits interesting as illustrations of history, but, owing to the injudicious system adopted, of no great value as authentic contemporary records. The admission of one doubtful picture would have injured it in this last capacity, the avowed admission of many entirely destroys it.





CHIEF WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR.

SOLDIER OF THE GUARD.  
NATIVES OF ZANZIBAR.

GOVERNOR OF ZANZIBAR.

**ZANZIBAR AND THE IMAM OF MUSCAT.**

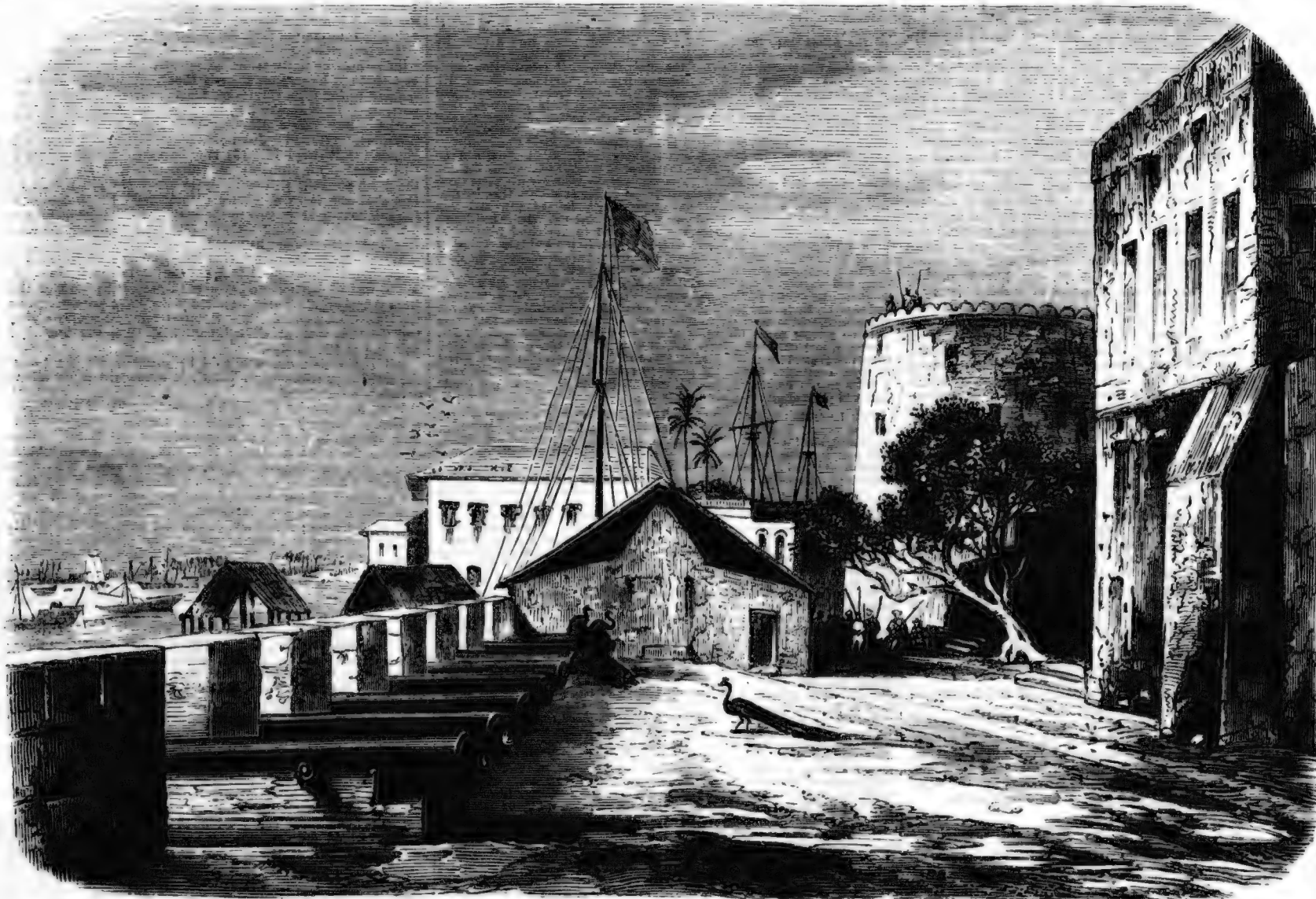
A FEW days ago we heard of the assassination of the Imam of Muscat and, although the intelligence seemed to relate to a country of which few people knew much, the Imam himself was really the most powerful chief of the Arab colonies established on the eastern coast of Africa.

The despatch which first brought the news simply announced that

the Imam had been murdered by his eldest son, and that some difficulties of government were not unnaturally anticipated. We now learn by a private despatch that the principal tribe of the coast were in insurrection, and was marching on the capital of the State at present occupied by the usurping Imam. This is not the only danger which besets the path of the new ruler. The late Imam had confided to his brother the government of the island of Zanzibar,

and, as he fully believes that he was installed for life, he refuses to recognise the authority of his nephew, and threatens to declare the independence of the island, in which case the Imam will lose one of his most valuable possessions.

The island of Zanzibar, which is founded on a coral reef in the Indian Sea, parallel with the eastern coast of Africa, was till the last few years a place of little importance, but it is now the great



INTERIOR OF THE FORTRESS WHICH DEFENDS THE CAPITAL OF ZANZIBAR.



market of the world for ivory, copal, cloves, spices, and similar productions. Its commerce owes its importance to the English, French, American and Hamburg houses which have been established there during the last ten years.

The coast opposite which Zanzibar is situated is known as Zanguebar, a name not used by the natives, and probably only a corruption of the name of the island. There are, in fact, three islands—Pemba, Zanzibar, and Monfees, the former and most northern of which is known as the green island, and is one of the most beautiful and verdant spots in the world. It is about thirty miles long from north to south, and ten wide from east to west, no part of it being more than 200 ft. above the level of the sea. Ship-timber, grain, and all kinds of vegetable products grow luxuriantly upon it, and several good harbours are found upon its coasts. It is, in fact, the granary of the east coast of Africa.

Zanzibar is nearly twice the size of Pemba, which it very closely resembles in soil and fertility; but it is principally devoted to commerce, and, as it is the seat of Government, possesses a fort and cannons, which have been established by our own Government. Besides every kind of tropical grain, Zanzibar produces great quantities of sugar, which is exported to Arabia and the Red Sea, as well as to Egypt. There are numerous harbours between Zanzibar and the main, formed by the reefs and islands which are dispersed over the channel, separating it from the continent, which is about fifteen miles wide. These harbours are safe, and not difficult of access; but Zanzibar has no land-locked port within its shores. Until recently the principal manufacture of the island has been that of round shields made from rhinoceros-hide and handsomely turned. These shields, which are capable of withstanding musket-shots, are about 1½ ft. in diameter, and are supplied to the army of the Imam of Muscat; so that, in the event of a war, their exportation will probably cease. In consequence of the threatened difficulty, our Government has ordered two vessels of war to quit Bombay for the Persian Gulf, in order to protect our national interests; and it is said that a French steam-vessel has been sent out with a similar purpose. Our Engravings, which are taken from original sketches, represent the Governor of the island, with his principal wife and a soldier of the guard; and a view of the fortress which defends Ungugar, or Beled-Zanzibar, the capital of the island.

#### BUST OF THE LATE MR. THACKERAY.

A VERY quiet ceremony took place at the close of last year in Westminster Abbey, which attracted little attention at the time, but which was an occasion well deserving of commemoration. The ceremony to which we refer was the inauguration of a bust of the late William Makepeace Thackeray. This fine bust was executed by Baron Marochetti, at the request of a committee of gentlemen who originated the idea of a subscription. The artist, an esteemed personal friend of Thackeray, was especially qualified for the task he has discharged so ably. The bust is placed against a mural column in the south transept, behind the statue of Addison, for whose fame Thackeray was ever jealous. This would make the site an appropriate one, but a still better reason for so regarding it is in the fact that, years ago, the author of "Vanity Fair," walking in the abbey with his children, indicated this very place as one in which he would like to have a memorial, adding, with a smile, "not, of course, that they will give me one here." He has one, and no lover of English literature will say that such an honour was not nobly earned. The bust is on a base of red serpentine, mounted on a bronze support, which bears the inscription—a record of the name and date of birth and death. The work was uncovered in the presence of the Dean of Westminster, the daughters of the illustrious author, Baron Marochetti, and Mr. Shibley Brooks, the honorary secretary to the fund for the erection of the memorial.

#### "THE ANSWER."

MAIDEN hesitation! What a charming thing it is! Have our lady readers ever received a love-letter? Of course they have. So they can understand the feelings of the fair creature in M. Willems's picture. Whatever shall the answer be? You see, it is so difficult. Something must be said; yet not too much. A little encouragement ought to be given; and yet the young lady must not commit herself too far. She must write kindly; and yet she must not be unmaidenly. That's the difficulty; and beautifully has M. Willems expressed the thoughtful, yet sweet hesitation consequent thereon. No wonder the picture has attracted great notice in Paris; and we are sure our readers will thank us for reproducing it for their gratification.

#### ELECTRICAL TORPEDOES.

It is to be feared that if ever that millennial period is reached when men shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks, the result will be due rather to the perfection of the means of destruction than to



BUST OF THE LATE MR. THACKERAY, IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—(BARON MAROCHETTI, SCULPTOR.)

any mitigation of the evil passions which stir up strife and contention. This being so, it is no reproach to the most philanthropic to rejoice exceedingly when Science, halting for a moment in her beneficent task of increasing the sum of human happiness, shows how the lessons she has learned may be applied to the sudden destruction of the stoutest ship or the strongest battalion in a way that must of necessity permanently turn the scale and render defence superior to attack. We do not propose to sketch the history of the idea that has now found practical development in the employment of electrical torpedoes as a means of defence. At the period Napoleon I. was assembling his army for the invasion of England at Boulogne, the British Government gave the scheme of an American a trial for the destruction of some portion of the enemy's flotilla. The attempt, however, was a failure, and the contrivance was never reverted to during the continuance of the war. The idea was revived at the outbreak of the Russian war by Professor Jacobi, a distinguished Russian chemist, and torpedoes, made on a plan of his own, formed part of the defences of the Russian Baltic ports. His torpedoes, however, were open to several objections. They floated in a position to be easily seen and removed by the enemy, they exploded on percussion by means which were very apt to fail at the critical moment, and if they did explode on being struck, as once occurred to an English ship of war, the effect was trivial. The failure of the means of self-ignition led to the adoption of electricity to explode torpedoes, when the Austrians employed them to defend the sea approaches to Venice. The French navy, however, made no demonstration against the Queen of the Adriatic during the brief but brilliant Italian campaign of 1859; so the practical effect of the contrivance remained unknown until the late American struggle demonstrated that the Federal navy received more damage from electrical torpedoes than from all the coast artillery of the Confederates, admirable as much of their ordnance was, and splendidly as it was generally served. The Confederate Government, wise in their generation, made an appropriation at the commencement of the struggle to provide electrical torpedoes for the defence of their harbours, and dispatched to Europe an officer to devise the best description of these formidable engines of destruction. That officer was Lieutenant Maury, who, previous to the outbreak of the war, had made a world-wide reputation as a scientific marine hydrographer in determining the general direction of the aerial currents of the ocean.

In conjunction with Mr. N. J. Holmes, a distinguished student of electrical science, who had demonstrated the fact that a gun could be fired by an electric spark generated at a distance of 120 miles, the subject was investigated, and many important discoveries were made.

The result of their experiments was shown by the damage inflicted on the Federal fleet. The last report of the Secretary of the United States navy admits that more injury was received from electrical torpedoes than from all other Confederate means combined. The crowning discovery, however, was not made in time, or it is more than probable that the struggle would be still going on. With the improvements made in firing at will and in planting torpedoes,

it is very unlikely that the defences of Wilmington and Mobile would ever have been forced by the Federal navy, or that Petersburg and Richmond would have been captured as they were. The great difficulty with electrical torpedoes was that when once submerged or buried in the ground there was no means of knowing whether they remained in good order or whether they had been removed by the enemy. Any attempt to test would, of course, have caused their explosion. The experience of the Confederates showed that they might remain submerged almost indefinitely without injury, for a United States ship of war was destroyed in Mobile Bay by a torpedo that had been in position nearly two years; but there remained the uncertainty as to whether they had been discovered and removed by the enemy. At last, this serious objection was obviated, and instructions and materials were sent out which might materially have changed the fortunes of the struggle; but before the blockade-runners arrived Mobile and Wilmington had fallen, so some were captured and others driven into Havannah. There is good reason to believe that the information thus obtained by the Federals is now being offered secondhand to our own Government. The discovery which has so vastly increased the value of torpedoes as a means of defence was thus explained by Mr. Holmes to an assembly of the Corps Diplomatique and officers of the Army and Navy who attended at his residence, Primrose Hill, on Saturday last, to hear him and Lieutenant Maury explain their plans. It may be mentioned here that the Governments of Russia, Sweden, and Denmark have adopted the system, and are now in a position to make matters very warm for an enemy that is inclined to test the condition of their harbour defences.

Mr. Holmes discovered that what is



"THE ANSWER."—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY F. WILLEMS, IN THE PARIS EXHIBITION.)



called an intensity current of electricity will, in preference to completing the full circuit, pass over a bridge of thin wire, of a suitable character, which, at any point, is made to connect the two thicker wires forming the circuit. An accumulated current of electricity, however, declines to make a short cut by the bridge of thin wire, and insists on completing the full circuit. The application of this important scientific fact to torpedoes removes every objection to their use, and makes them the most formidable engine of destruction now known. By connecting the two parts of the circuit just outside the fuse of the torpedo with this little wire bridge, a conversational or intensity current of electricity can be passed at any time, and the integrity of the torpedo be tested whenever it is thought desirable. Substitute, however, the accumulated current, and the lightning's flash is not more quick than the explosion which follows. Mr. Holmes illustrated this important principle by exploding a few miniature torpedoes singly and in groups, and a number of torpedo fuses, through all of which intensity currents were passed and messages sent before they were exploded by the accumulated current.

The application of the principle to harbour defence was illustrated by a diagram of Portsmouth harbour. The mode of laying down the torpedoes by concurrent angular observations from two or three different stations, and the application of those bearings to the destruction of an enemy's fleet, were explained. It would be difficult to compress into the limits of a brief notice all that passed in some hours, rather of pleasant social intercourse than formal demonstration; but it was impossible to resist the conviction, from what took place, that, while much remains to be learned of the effects of the explosion of different quantities of powder at different depths of water, we possess in torpedoes a means of defence of the utmost possible value, at a cost scarcely worth consideration. The principal expense of defending places of such prime importance as Portsmouth would be principally for the insulated wire to connect the torpedoes with the land. The first cost of this would be the heaviest item; but it would not be a frequently recurring cost, for when the torpedoes are exploded the wire can be recovered and used again. Indeed, it was said that for £10,000 Portsmouth might be sealed to any enemy who was not desirous of the honour of a journey heavenward. So, again, for land defences, one has but to mine the approaches by digging a few conical holes, burying a torpedo and filling up with a few hundred tons of stones of sufficient weight, and the consequence to an advancing column can easily be imagined. A regiment or an ironclad could be destroyed at a cost not exceeding one of the monster steel shells, hundreds of which would be used, probably, with little effect against an attacking fleet. The moral effect of such means of destruction would be as valuable as their physical effect. There is no honour in being blown into fragments without being able to strike a blow in self-defence; and it may safely be assumed that the general or admiral who has to conduct future warlike operations will be very careful how he exposes the forces under his command to such a contingency.—*Telegraph.*

#### OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

ALTHOUGH, at the moment of our writing, neither of the two great sopranos have yet appeared on whose performances the success of the Royal Italian Opera so much depends, two representations were given last week which cannot be passed over without a word of notice. First of all, Signor Mario, who, without being called, in conventional phrase, "a host in himself," may arithmetically be described as worth any two other singers, came out on Thursday in his old part of John of Leyden in "Le Prophète." The representation of "Le Prophète" at Covent Garden is one of the finest examples of operatic performance to be witnessed in Europe, and, after a long course of Verdi, it must have been a relief to the subscribers to hear music of so entirely different a character. As the cast of the opera was precisely the same as last year, when the other distinguishing feature of it was the Fides of Mdle. von Edelsberg—with the characteristics of which our readers have been made fully acquainted—we need not enter into further detail. Enough that the great points, and especially the scene of the coronation, in which the fallen prophet is confronted by Fides, whom, by the affectation of a miracle, he induces to disown him, produced the accustomed sensation, and that the acting of Mario was an *prodigio* in itself.

The new singer, Mdle. Orgeni, has fully confirmed the good impressions created by her impersonation of "La Traviata" in a second essay. The "Lucia di Lammermoor," however, of this promising young lady is too remarkable a performance to be dismissed in a paragraph, and as the popular work of Donizetti is shortly to be repeated, we shall defer our criticism, premising that Signor Fancelli has also made a decided step in public estimation by his performance of Edgardo, the hero of Donizetti's most romantic and most popular, if not most musical and meritorious, opera.

The attractions of the Royal Italian Opera this season follow one another with unexampled rapidity.

"Naaman," on the occasion of its first performance, was noticed at great length in all the London papers, and in reference to its reproduction on Friday evening at Exeter Hall by the Sacred Harmonic Society we need only mention the fact that its beauties seemed to be highly appreciated by a most attentive audience. Since the first bringing out of Mendelssohn's "Elijah," in 1846, we cannot remember any great sacred dramatic work that has met with anything like the approbation bestowed upon Mr. Costa's "Eli," unless, indeed, we make an exception in favour of the "Naaman," by the same composer. It would be easy to mention the failures that have been submitted to the public during the interval; but it is more interesting to remind readers of three or four works that have established themselves, for a time at least, in public favour. Two by Spohr, two by Ferdinand Hiller, and one ("Abraham") by Herr Molique would complete the list.

*Shine Out, O Golden Stars!* Song. Written by Alfred Mathieson. Adapted to the melody of "The Coldstream Guards' Waltz" by Fred. Godfrey, Bandmaster of the Coldstream Guards.

*The Coldstream Guards' Waltz.* Composed by A. F. Godfrey, Bandmaster of the Coldstream Guards. Robert Cocks and Co.

Waltzing would appear to be one of the principal occupations of her Majesty's household brigade. Mr. Daniel Godfrey, in his capacity of bandmaster to the Grenadier Guards, supplied that distinguished corps, about two years ago, with a waltz, which has since become world-renowned. Mr. Daniel Godfrey's waltz, however, though first introduced by the band of one particular regiment, seems to have been intended for the whole brigade of Guards, and was called, generally, the "Guards' Waltz." Mr. A. Frederick Godfrey, bandmaster of the Coldstream Guards, has now furnished that regiment with a waltz named after itself, and which has already gained an extensive popularity. *Waltzes habent sua fata*, like books; and it is the fate of all waltzes composed by the Messrs. Godfrey to have words written to them. The melody of "The Coldstream Guards' Waltz" has found congenial poetry in the lines by Mr. Alfred Mathieson, to which it has been allied.

THE STREET TRAFFIC OF THE METROPOLIS.—The Select Committee to whom was referred the London (City) Traffic Regulation Bill, and who were instructed "to inquire into the best means of regulating the traffic of the metropolis," have agreed to the following special report:—"1. Your Committee have heard evidence as to the general street traffic of the metropolis, and as to the attempts made to regulate it under several Acts of Parliament passed, to give to the various authorities in the City, and in the metropolitan police district, power for this purpose. 2. Your Committee are of opinion that any legislation which may be necessary for the further regulation of the public traffic within the city of London would be ineffectual and incomplete unless corresponding regulations were in force in a much larger portion of the metropolis, and that such regulations should be submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State by the Commissioners of Police for their respective districts. 3. Entertaining these views, your Committee think that it is not desirable to proceed with the bill referred to them, which is limited to the regulation of the traffic within the city of London. Your Committee therefore recommend a general measure to correct the present defects in the law, and to regulate the traffic."

#### THE SICK POOR OF LONDON.

ON Saturday afternoon last a large and influential body of noblemen and gentlemen, headed by the Archbishop of York, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Airlie, Earl Grosvenor, M.P., and formed principally of members of the House of Commons of both of the great parties, waited upon the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, the President of the Poor-Law Board, to confer with him in respect to the condition of the sick poor in the metropolitan workhouses. With the President were Viscount Enfield, M.P.; Mr. Fleming, Mr. H. B. Farnall, C.B., and other gentlemen.

The Earl of Carnarvon, who introduced the deputation, said that it was his duty as chairman of the meeting held a few weeks since in Willis's Rooms, to lay before the Right Hon. the President, as the head of the Poor-Law Board and as a member of her Majesty's Government, certain resolutions passed at that meeting. The first of these passed was, "That the present management of the sick poor in the metropolitan workhouse infirmaries is highly unsatisfactory; that the buildings are inadequate and unhealthy, the medical attendance insufficient, the nursing merely nominal, and the general administration radically defective;" and another, "That, with a view to the humane and efficient treatment of the sick poor, it is desirable to consolidate the infirmaries of the metropolitan workhouses, to support them by a general metropolitan rate, and to place them under uniform management in connection with the Poor-Law Board." His Lordship went on to observe that there was not a single sentence in all the resolutions passed at that meeting, and nothing said, but what was fully borne out by facts, and nothing whatever was exaggerated in the slightest degree. It was beyond all controversy that there was no real medical attendance in the workhouse infirmaries; that there was not a proper staff of trained nurses in any way proportionate to the number of sick poor in the infirmaries, and there was no hospital organisation deserving the name. He dwelt upon the imperfect condition of the buildings used as infirmaries, and showed their unsuitability for the purpose to which they were put; and, amid the loud cheers of the deputation, he asked the right hon. gentleman to lay these matters before her Majesty's Government, in order that redress should be found for so deplorable a state of things. He then laid before the board certain principles drawn up by eminent medical gentlemen as a basis for the treatment of the sick. The gentlemen who had drawn them up were Dr. Watson, the President of the College of Physicians; Dr. Burrows, the President of the General Medical Council; Sir James Clark, Dr. Jenner, Dr. E. Sieveking, Sir W. Fergusson, and Mr. James Paget; and the principles were that the sick poor should be separated from the able-bodied paupers and their treatment placed under a distinct management; and that, in lieu of sick wards annexed to each workhouse, consolidated infirmaries should be provided, where accepted rules of hospital management should be adopted under skilled supervision. These rules were that the building should be specially devised for the purpose, of a suitable construction, and on healthy sites; that not less than 1000 cubic feet of air should be allowed to each patient; that the nursing should be by a paid staff of not less than one day nurse, one night nurse, and one constant nurse for each fifty patients; that resident medical officers should be in the proportion of not less than one for each 250 patients; that the medical officers should have no pecuniary interest in the medicines, nor be charged with dispensing duty; that there should be a classification of patients; and that there should be day-rooms for the aged and infirm, the chronically sick, and the convalescent. Having given in these general principles, the noble Lord concluded by stating that he hoped the inquiry now being instituted by the Poor-Law Board into the condition of the London workhouse infirmaries would have its results published, so as to bring out clearly and beyond dispute or controversy the existing condition of things in those places.

The Archbishop of York said he had little to add to what had fallen from the noble Earl. He trusted that the inquiry being made would be a full and open one. He urged that the Poor-Law Board ought to have greater powers than they now seemed to have over boards of guardians to compel those boards to carry out the orders of the central authority. He instanced a seeming want of this power in the case of the late inquiry at Bethnal-green, when the guardians, on being recommended to dismiss a porter who was found to be neglectful of his duty by the inquiry made as to the two deaths of aged and sick men, only set the Poor-Law Board at defiance after some ghastly "merriment." The right rev. prelate touched upon the late horrible case in St. Pancras of laying out a live child, and said he hoped the Poor-Law Board would enforce its orders.

Mr. Rogers, Mr. Paget, the Earl of Shaftesbury, and Mr. J. S. Storr addressed the president.

Mr. Ernest Hart, in some observations showing the necessity for new hospital buildings for the accommodation of the metropolitan sick poor, quoted the testimony of Dr. Parkes, the Professor of Hygiene to the Army Medical Department at Netley; of General Morin, the President of the Imperial Commission for Ventilation and Hygiene in France, and of Miss Nightingale, to prove that more than double the area given in the workhouse infirmaries was absolutely necessary for the patients.

Mr. Villiers, in reply, said the deputation would see that he was unable to give any definite reply to the propositions which they had laid before him. Lord Carnarvon had appealed to him as a member of the Government and as President of the Poor-Law Board; but, looking at the nature of the case and the extent of the evils which the association had brought under review, and the very comprehensive nature of the changes proposed, he could not state what the Government might think it right to do or what would be practicable. But, certainly, as President of that Board, he could say that he felt, and he was sure the public must feel, deeply indebted to this association for the inquiries which had been instituted, and for the effective manner in which the results of those inquiries had been made known in the effort to reform the system of which they complained. By bringing such matters forcibly before the public and enlisting its sympathies in the cause, the best chance was afforded of ultimately giving effect to their views. He felt bound to say that he had seldom known a more humane and Christian-like labour undertaken than that of improving the condition of the sick in the workhouse infirmaries of this great city. Many of the things which the association had observed had not taken him by surprise, for cases had often, too often, arisen in these houses and come before the Board showing that the hospital arrangements of the houses were still very defective; and, indeed, he was not indisposed in consequence to agree substantially with the terms of the resolution passed at the meeting—namely, "That the present management of the sick in the metropolitan workhouses is unsatisfactory; that the buildings are, in some cases, inadequate, the medical attendance insufficient, and the nursing merely nominal." As far as he understood the subject—for to understand fully almost required a professional knowledge—he believed the resolution to be true; and, saying this, it was hardly necessary to add that it was a state of things which ought not, in his opinion, to continue, and in which great change was required. Referring to the statements which had been made with respect to the inquiry instituted by the Board, he assured the deputation that it had been instituted for the purpose of placing the Board in the official possession of facts with regard to London workhouse infirmaries, so as to be prepared to lay them fully before the Government and the Legislature if opportunity should offer. The fact that the inquiry was being carried out by Dr. Smith, who was eminent in his profession, and by Mr. H. B. Farnall, the well-known Poor-Law Inspector for the metropolis, was a guarantee that the inquiry would be full and impartial. An inquiry had certainly been made, but it was, in one sense, private in its character—he alluded to that instituted by the proprietors of the *Lancet*. He begged to say that he had never questioned the capacity or the good faith of the gentlemen who had made that inquiry, and he had yet to learn that there had been any overstatement in the cases they had apparently established. He feared, however, that the difficulty in this case was not so much in getting at the

truth as in giving effect to the remedy suggested. He was certainly not prepared to dispute the conclusions to which the deputation had arrived, and the remedy proposed was, he understood, that there should be six separate hospitals for the sick at present lodged in the metropolitan workhouse infirmaries. The meeting must not lose sight of the fact that such a scheme involved a great change in the principle upon which the poor were now maintained in this country. That change was now local, and the administration of the law was in the hands of those who contributed locally to the fund out of which the poor were relieved, whereas this scheme would treat the sick poor as belonging to the whole metropolis, and the expenses of raising the buildings and maintaining the hospitals would be charged on the whole property of the metropolis. He did not say it would be wrong on that account, or that the system of local management for the purposes of the poor had been faultless; but the system was one of which the community was extremely tenacious, and there would be considerable difficulty in suspending it even in this city, where the adoption of a more general system would appear to be so reasonable. He did not say that the difficulty was insuperable; and if it were clearly proved that a change was essential for the proper treatment of the sick poor, he did not say that it might not become even popular, especially if it were proved that the defects under the present system were irremediable. There had always been a difficulty as to the hands in which the administration of the poor law should be placed, and the great dread of the Legislature had been that there would be lax and wasteful expenditure, injurious to property, and tending to the promotion of pauperism, if the administration were not in the hands of those directly interested in the economy of the funds, and of the guardians chosen for this purpose. Some guardians, he acknowledged, performed their duties with judgment and humanity; but, as the chief duty which they had to perform was what was termed "to keep down the expenditure," it was somewhat of a chance when guardians were found possessing all the qualities required for a wise administration of the law. The right hon. gentleman proceeded to deal with the other facts of the case, and said he thought that if the House of Commons could be prevailed upon to alter the present system of rating in the metropolis it would do so for the sick poor, and have a general rate, as in the case of the casual poor. He concluded by saying that, though he could not pledge the Government in the matter, he could assure the deputation that nothing should be wanting on his part in recommending the propositions for favourable consideration.

#### THE POLLUTION OF THE THAMES.

THE Commissioners appointed to inquire into the best means of preventing the pollution of rivers have just issued their first report, and in it they restrict themselves to inquiries respecting the Thames. In pursuance of their instructions, they have made a personal inspection of the river, and have held public inquiries at Oxford, Windsor, Kingston, Richmond, Lechlade, Great Marlow, Worthing, and Croydon, as well as at the offices of the commission in London. It appears that the special conditions in the geology and the surface configuration of the Thames basin render the water singularly pure for so large a river. The greatest length of the Thames from its source to the estuary is 201 miles, and the area of the entire basin is about 5162 square miles, or 3,303,680 statute acres. A table is given, which shows that on the banks of the tributaries and the main stream, above the pumping-station at Hampton, there are 1001 cities, boroughs, towns, hamlets, and parishes, having a total population of 888,088; that 89 of these places have populations exceeding 2000 persons; and that there are 360 mills in the basin of the river. Throughout its whole course from Cricklade to the point where the metropolitan sewage commences, the water of the river is fouled by sewage from cities, &c., and by the refuse from paper-mills and tanneries. As a rule, the cities and towns standing on the banks of the Thames are only partially sewered, and hence it is to be expected that greater pollution will result as local authorities give increased attention to the sanitary condition of the places over which they have control. The evidence shows that at each place considerable polluting matter is allowed to float into the stream, and that at some points the sewage arrangements are far from being perfect. Dr. Acland states that the water below Oxford is now unfit for drinking, and Mr. Alderman Towle says that the increasing impurity has rendered it useless for the manufacture of white paper. With an aggregate rainfall of 4 in. or 5 in., the river rises so high at Windsor as to shut the mouth of the main sewer from the town and the new drain from the castle. This happens almost every winter, and during its continuance no solid matter can pass; instead, it accumulates in the sewer and becomes most offensive and putrid. Sometimes the water rises so high that the sewage is thrown up open spaces and discharged on the Home Park, from which it is raked away and pushed into the river. It is calculated that the number of persons whose sewage finds its way into the water from which the inhabitants of London draw their supply amounts to hundreds of thousands; and, as medical men assert that it is impossible, by either microscopic or chemical analysis, to detect the poisonous quality given to water by the presence of organic matter, there is no saying to what extent human life is injured by it. Besides the pollution by sewage, the Commissioners received evidence showing how the water was fouled by the refuse from paper-mills. There are several forms in which refuse matter passes from paper-mills into the river, but the most important, as a source of injury, is that of alkaline waste liquor. The Commissioners were also instigated to inquire how the sewage and refuse could be utilised, or got rid of otherwise than by being discharged into running waters, and one portion of their report sums up what evidence they obtained respecting sewage irrigation. This evidence shows what has already been done at Croydon, Norwood, Worthing, Carlisle, and Edinburgh, in the way of utilising sewage; and the Commissioners think that, where any disagreeable or deleterious effects are found accompanying the process, they may be satisfactorily explained and prevented. After stating the conclusions to which they have come, the Commissioners recommend that, under certain conditions, the river be placed under the superintendence of the existing Conservancy Board; that, after the lapse of time necessary to alter the present arrangements, it be made unlawful for any sewage to be cast into the Thames within certain limits; that the conservators shall have power to enforce the above prohibition; that power be given to local authorities to take land for the purpose of sewage irrigation, to the extent of one acre for every fifty persons whose sewage is to be applied; and that such powers be given to the conservators as will enable them to deal with all the questions raised. There is a special recommendation made by Mr. Harrison, in which Mr. Rawlinson, C.B., and Professor Way do not concur.

THE LIFE-BOAT OF THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION stationed at Maryport was happily the means, on Tuesday last, of saving the schooner *Treaty*, of Goolie, and her crew of three men and the master's wife. The vessel had gone ashore at Dab Mill Scar during a gale of wind, but was afterwards taken into port in safety. The cost of this life-boat station was presented to the Institution by Henry Nixon, Esq., of Manchester.

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.—A few days since, about seven p.m., General and Mrs. Cleaveland were in their dining-room at Stourwood House, near Ringwood, Hants, when suddenly a loud singing, as if from drunken men, was heard in front of the house. A minute after a man unknown to them, but whose name it since appears is Charles Hyde, came up and attempted to pull down the shutters. General Cleaveland hurried his wife from the room, locked the door after her, and arming himself with a revolver, immediately proceeded to the front of the house, where he found Hyde trying to force his entrance through the shutters. On going up to him General Cleaveland told him to desist, and to come with him. The man replied, "No, I shall not come with you to be put in Winchester Gaol," adding, "I have not done yet; when I get into your house I will have your life, and the lives of all belonging to you." Hyde at that time, though smelling strongly of rum, was not drunk. He had a large stone in his hands, which were bleeding. The General left for a moment to see Mrs. Cleaveland into the house, she having come out with the servant. The man took advantage of the opportunity, and broke nine large panes of the drawing-room window, doubtless with the intention of entering that way. It would have done so had not Mrs. Cleaveland rushed up and shut the shutters in his face, at the same time exclaiming, "The police are coming and will shoot you." To this he replied in a quiet voice, "I want no sauce, and I don't care for the police." After this people approached from both sides of the house. The man moved a few steps, and was seized by a gardener named Guy, who, in trying to secure him, was stabbed by a clasp-knife. A struggle then commenced, during which he flung the knife under a shrub a few feet off. The General's groom afterwards picked it up, open. He was so violent that it became necessary to convey him in a cart to Christchurch police station, where, it appears, he became raving mad. He has since been placed in a lunatic asylum. When the singing was first heard one of the servants went out to see what the noise was, and the man said, "This is General Cleaveland's?" She replied, "Yes; but what are you here for?" He replied, "Make but a sign to warn them and I will dash your brains out." The maid then ran to tell what she had seen, but unfortunately too late. Evidence was given by two medical men before the magistrates at the court held at Christchurch, that the prisoner was then deranged, and had been previously treated by them for insanity. Hyde was sent some months to the infirmary at Southampton, and, on account of his violence, was removed thence to the union. The union, it is said, on account of his state of mind, sent him back to the parish, since which time he has been allowed to roam about at large, with no one to take care of him.







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